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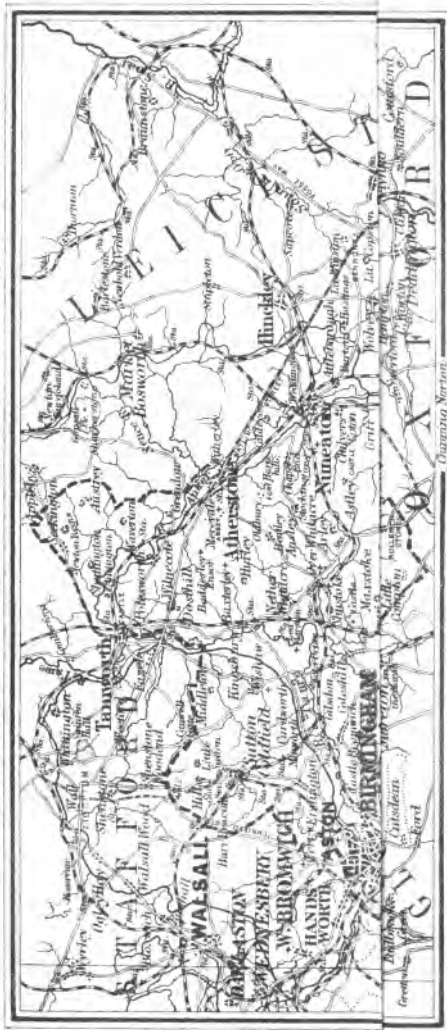
THE GIFT OF  
MEMBERS OF THE WHITE FAMILY  
IN MEMORY OF  
ALEXANDER MOSS WHITE  
CLASS OF 1892

**TOURIST'S GUIDE**  
**TO**  
**WARWICKSHIRE.**





# MAP TO ACCOMPANY THE GUIDE TO WARWICK.



Scale of Statute Miles

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**TOURIST'S GUIDE**  
**TO**  
**WARWICKSHIRE.**

**BY THE LATE**  
**G. PHILLIPS BEVAN, F.G.S., F.S.S.**

*SECOND EDITION.*

**REVISED AND EDITED BY**  
**R. N. WORTH, F.G.S.**

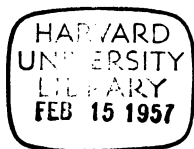
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## PREFACE.

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SINCE the 'Tourist's Guide to Warwickshire' was written by the late Mr. Bevan, many changes have taken place in the railway and general travelling arrangements; the growth and activities of the chief centres of population have been strongly marked; much fresh light has been thrown upon matters historical and topographical. Advantage, therefore, has been taken of the demand for a new edition to revise and recast the general form of the Guide, and altogether to rewrite considerable portions—to make it, within its limits, a thorough and accurate companion to one of the most fascinating and time-honoured of English shires.

R. N. WORTH.

*Easter, 1894.*



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# TOURIST'S GUIDE TO WARWICKSHIRE

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## INTRODUCTION.

### Topography.

WARWICKSHIRE, the centre and heart of English soil, is as typical a county as can be found. Whatever the taste of the visitor, he will find material of the highest interest everywhere. The scenery is soft and tender—shaded woodland, breezy downs, lanes and fields studded with flowers, graceful rivers and streams. The history, pregnant with the stirring events that go to make up the chronicle of England, lives again in antiquarian remains, venerable castles, and numberless relics of mediæval domestic life; while the student of to-day may find in multifarious industries ample stores of technical information, or note the ever-changing problems of industrial life and politics. Few English counties are more representative than Warwickshire; with past and present ever in juxtaposition, and glories of the 'good old times' set in sharp contrast to the more prosaic and more restless life of the present day.

Warwick, which ranks twenty-fourth in size of English counties, is 50m. long by 33m. wide, and contains an area of 885 square miles, or 566,458 acres. It is surrounded by Stafford, Leicester, Northampton, Oxford, Gloucester, and Worcester, the two latter interchanging their borders so constantly with Warwick that it would be hard for the tourist to say at a guess in which he was standing. Many an English county has had its 'outliers,' but nowhere was this disjointed condition carried to such an extent as in the S.W. of Warwickshire. The physical features of the area are not very striking. There are no

mountains, and with the exception of the northern spurs of the Cotswold, few hills of any size. Edgehill rises to something like 800 feet. Still Warwickshire is by no means a plain. Almost everywhere the surface undulates with a singular freedom from monotony. In the N., indeed, the scenery rises to a high order W. of Sutton Coldfield, extending to Barr Beacon on the Stafford border, and comprising the really wild and beautiful Sutton Park. A still more broken and beautiful bit of country is found W. of the Watling Street, between Atherstone and Nuneaton, equal to parts of Wales, though somewhat marred by the encroachments of collieries. South of these districts is the extensive wooded area known as Arden, in early days a dense forest, stretching from Coleshill N. to Brandon, Coventry, and the valley of the Avon, and W. as far as the Worcester border. The early topographers divided Warwickshire into the 'Arden' and the 'Feldon'—the latter the open and undulating 'field' country to the S. of Warwick and Southam. The term Arden, as applied to forest land, is seen also in the 'Ardennes.' The N.E. side of the county is a long stretch of high ground, passing from Leicestershire S. to Rugby, Dunchurch, and Southam, with occasional elevations, such as Wormleighton and Napton Hills. On the W. border the country is prettily broken along the valley of the Avon, and a ridge of table-land stretches from Alcester to near Stratford-on-Avon. The extreme S. is very picturesque in parts, particularly the valleys of the Stour about Easington, and of the Dene at Wellesbourne. Separating Warwickshire from Oxfordshire is the conspicuous plateau of Edgehill, on the S. merging into the Cotswold escarpments.

Warwickshire is so nearly the heart of England, that it contributes to each of the three great *river systems* of the kingdom—the Trent, the Thames, and, most notably, the Severn. Naturally, from the character of the surface the rivers of the county are not remarkable for swiftness, but, on the contrary, slow, meditative streams, sometimes verging on the sluggish. The Warwickshire river is, of course, the *Avon*, which, rising at Naseby in Northampton, enters Warwick near Rugby, receiving the *Swift* from Leicester, and flows past Brandon to Stoneleigh; here it is joined by the *Sowe*, which flows E. of Coventry, where it receives the *Sherborne*. At Leamington the Avon is

reinforced by the *Leam* and its affluent, the *Itchen*, as Drayton sings :—

. . . . 'Avon's winding streame  
By Warwick entertaines the high-complectioned Leame.'

From Warwick the Avon flows S.W. to Stratford, receiving the *Dene* at Charlecote, the *Stour* below Stratford, and the *Arrow* (combined with the *Alne*) below Bidford. Not a river in England, in as short a course as from Stoneleigh to Bidford, offers so many subjects of the deepest interest as the Avon.

The North Warwickshire river system is far less picturesque, as destined to play its part more in commercial interests. The *Tame* rises a little S. of Birmingham, and receives, within short distances of each other, as it flows towards Tamworth, the *Rea*, the *Cole*, the *Blythe*, and the *Bourne*, running through an interesting but comparatively flat country on its way to the *Trent*. On the N.E. of the county there is a considerable tributary to the Tame, near Tamworth, in the *Anker*, which rises on the Leicester border, and flows past Atherstone and Polesworth—

'Ancor trifling strayes  
Unto the lustier Tame, as lothe to come her wayes.'

In the S.E. feeders of the *Cherwill* contribute to the Thames, the Cherwill itself being in its source a Warwickshire stream.

The *canals* are numerous and important, connecting at various points the navigation of the Thames, Trent, Mersey, and Severn.

### History.

The *history* of the county is full of interest. We first find it occupied by the Keltic Cornavii and Dobunnii, who have left not a few traces of their presence, in the local place-names; in various earthworks and tumuli; in the 'Rollright' or 'Rollrick' Stones; and last but not least in the great roadways, which the Romans improved, and of which they have well-nigh monopolised the credit—Watling Street, Icknield Street, and the Fosseway. The Romans indeed had far less to do with the county than it was once fashionable to hold, when Birmingham was mistakenly regarded as the Roman *Bremenium*. The



Roman occupation of Alcester is however abundantly clear, and they have left their mark also at Mancetter, High Cross, and Chesterton, with less important evidence at Warwick, Willoughby, Hampton-in-Arden, and, indeed, at Birmingham and a few minor localities.

In Saxon times the shire formed part of the kingdom of Mercia, and later of the earldom of the famous Leofric; while the importance of Warwick town was marked by the erection of a great 'strength' by Ethelfleda, the worthy daughter of Ælfred. The Danes not only ravaged the county during their inroads, but left permanent record in the foundation of that since famous centre of 'light and leading'—Rugby.

The position of Warwickshire made it play an important part in the annals of civil conflict. Two of the decisive battles of the kingdom were fought upon its borders—that of Evesham in 1265, and that of Bosworth in 1485, while the power of the Montfort party was finally crushed by the siege and capture of Kenilworth within the county itself. In the Wars of the Roses the two most important centres of the shire were found on opposite sides; while in the struggle between King and Parliament, the county went mainly for the latter. Birmingham, then making its mark as a manufacturing centre, was so staunch to principle, that it declined to forge arms for the Cavaliers and had to submit to severe chastisement from Rupert. The share of Warwickshire in this struggle was, however, rather local than general, though the two parties first met in serious conflict within its borders, at the indecisive strife of Edgehill, on Sunday, Oct. 23, 1642.

Kenilworth has probably had more visits from English monarchs than any other provincial castle.

The *political history* of the county, thanks to its possession of the great town of Birmingham, has been strongly marked. Prior to 1832 that place was wholly unrepresented, while the county sent two members, Warwick two, Coventry two, and Tamworth two. No change then took place in the way of disfranchisement; but the county was divided and had two more members, and two were given to Birmingham, the same number as retained by Tamworth, though that town had only a population of 7,182, and Birmingham one of 146,986. The only alteration between 1832 and the last Reform

Bill was the addition of a minority member to Birmingham. Now the county has four divisions—Tamworth, Nuneaton, Stratford-on-Avon, and Rugby ; Coventry, and Warwick and Leamington return one member each ; Birmingham has seven divisions ; and Aston Manor, adjoining, also has a member—making 14 in all.

The *population* of Warwickshire, thanks to the prominent position taken in manufactures, especially in the Birmingham district, is largely on the increase. Between 1871 and 1881, it grew from 634,189 to 737,339, and by 1891 had reached 805,070. More than half of this total is however due to Birmingham, the population of which at the last-named date was 429,171, an increase of over 80,000 in twenty years. The record of the shire in the last decade is one of all but universal growth in every district in the county, the Stratford-on-Avon division alone showing a very slight falling off.

### Antiquities.

Antiquities are numerous and full of interest, specially in the mediæval section. Among the earlier earthworks the chief place falls to the 'camp' at Nadbury ; among tumuli to Alcock's Arbor near Alcester ; while the Roll-right Stones near Long Compton occupy a prominent place in the catalogue of British megaliths. Some of the assumed Roman stations are very doubtful, but the evidence is unimpeachable for such localities as Alcester, Mancetter, Chesterton.

A very noteworthy feature is the prominence of the great British trackways which the Romans adopted and improved. The *Watling Street* forms the boundary of a considerable portion next Leicestershire, under the guise of a modern turnpike road, on its way to Wall near Lichfield. The *Fosseway* bisects the county and the Watling Street at right angles, running in a perfectly straight line from Easington to Chesterton, Brinklow, Stretton-on-the-Fosse and Leicester, intersecting the Watling Street at High Cross (*Vennones*). The *Icknield Street* enters the county near Bidford, and runs due N. through Alcester and past Ipsley Camp to Birmingham. There is a *Ridgeway* on the W. of the shire.

Of *Saxon* date we may consider the '*lows*,' such as Knightlow, Motlow, Blacklow, etc. Saxon building traces are observable in the mound of Warwick Castle,

the curtain wall of Tamworth Castle, and in Loxley ch. : while some of the moats and entrenchments round the old mansions are believed to be of Saxon date.

The *castles* of the shire alone would suffice to give it fame—especially those of Warwick and Kenilworth, while Maxstoke is an excellent example of the Edwardian type, and other remains have special interest, as at Tamworth. There are *country-houses* of all dates and styles, from such fine 15th century mansions as Baddesley Clinton, Charlcote, and Compton Winyates, down to the present day ; with several moated manors of minor importance.

The *religious houses* have left comparatively few traces, Stoneleigh Abbey being the most noteworthy example to the contrary ; but the *chs.* are of very exceptional interest. There is undoubted *Saxon* work in the lower part of the tower of Wootton Wawen.

*Norman* work will be found in the *chs.* of Wolston, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Wyken, Berkswell, Hampton-in-Arden, Bickenhill, Merevale (the old Priory Gate), Fenny Compton, Lillington, Cubbington, Curdworth, Ansley, Tamworth, Kenilworth, Stoneleigh, Wixford, Arrow, Bidford, Beandesert, Preston Bagot, Butlers Marston, Warmington, Burton Dasset, Whatcote, Idlicote, Oxhill, Tysoe, Barton-on-the-Heath, and Sutton-under-Brailes. Also in the ruins of Maxstoke Priory, Brandon Castle, Hartshill Castle, Kenilworth Castle, and the inhabited buildings of Warwick Castle, and Combe and Stoneleigh Abbeys.

The principal *E. English chs.* are Clifton-on-Dunsmore, Brownsover, Bidford, Brailes, Burton, Barmington, Baginton, Wapenbury, Offchurch, Harbury, Aston, St. Martins (Birmingham), Sutton Coldfield, Water Orton, Aston Cantlow, Norton Lindsay, Stratford-on-Avon, Sherborne, Napton, Whichford, Barcheston, Chadshunt, Kineton, Tyroe, Wolverton, and Wormleighton.

The leading *Decorated* fabrics include ; Astley, Stratford-on-Avon, Rugby, Bilton, Dunchurch, Christchurch (Coventry), Allesley, Alcester, Monks Kirby, Marton, Ratley, Polesworth, Grendon, Packwood, Temple Balsall, Fillongley, Corley, Kenilworth, Coleshill, Austrey, Newton Regis, Salford Priors, Wolverton, Charlecote, Grandborough, Priors Hardwick, Atherstone-on-Stour, Cherrington, Long Itchington, and Leamington Hastings.

Chs. of *Perpendicular* date abound, and claim in the *Beauchamp Chapel*, Warwick, one of the finest examples in the kingdom. Other illustrations are Newbold-on-Avon, St. Michaels, Holy Trinity and St. Johns at Coventry, Brinklow, Withybrook, Chesterton, Leamington, Hatton, Wootton Wawen, Knowle, Solihull, Coughton, Stratford-on-Avon, Henley-in-Arden, Lapworth, and Brailes. Alcester and Baddesley Clinton are specimens of *debased*.

The chs. of Newton Regis, Polesworth, Hillmorton, and Cherrington are notable for their curious *effigies*, Rowington and Barmington for their *stone pulpits*. The earliest *brasses* will be found at Astley, Bagington, Warwick, Wellesborne, Whichcote, and Wixford, and there are good later examples at Coventry.

The *half timbered houses* are singularly interesting, and in domestic architecture generally the county is peculiarly rich, both in the old-fashioned street work of towns like Coventry and Warwick, and in the isolated country grange. Of the former class are the gateways, St. Mary's Hall, Ford's and Bablake Hospitals, and the Grammar School, in Coventry; the Leycester Hospital and Okin's house, Warwick; Shakspeare's house, the Grammar School and Guildhall in Stratford-on-Avon; while among the latter, partially to recapitulate, may be named the old houses of Kinghurst, Blakesley, Packwood, Baddesley Clinton, Hillfield, Ravenshaw, Berry, Whorley, Henwood, Temple Balsall Hospital, the Old Crown House at Birmingham, Sheldon, Peddymore, New Hall, Astley Castle, Maxstoke Castle, Kingsbury, Charlecote, Botley, Swanhurst, Bushwood, and Compton Winyates.

Nowhere in the kingdom—hardly anywhere in Europe, is there so much to interest a visitor in such small space, as in the compass of the short railway ride from Warwick by Kenilworth to Coventry, and thence to Stratford-on-Avon—the very cream and flower of the shire for peaceful loveliness, antiquarian features, and time-honoured associations.

### Industrial Relations.

As the county is typical in scenery, tastes, and associations, so is it also in industrial progress, containing, more or less, examples of most of the English industries. Coal-mining is briskly carried on in the districts between Coventry, Nuneaton, Atherstone, and Tamworth, the

chief localities being Bedworth, Wyken, Exhall, Griff, Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton, Stockingford, Ansley, Harts-hill, Polesworth, Fazeley, and Wilnecote. Argillaceous iron ore is also raised, but there is no iron trade, properly so called, except the manufactured iron foundries in and about Birmingham, all the ore being sent into the Black Country. Nor does Warwick possess any other metalliferous mines, though manganese used to be freely worked in the Nuneaton and Hartshill district. Textiles are largely produced, but only of a certain character. Cotton-spinning is a Nuneaton industry, and beyond this the whole of the Warwickshire textile trade is devoted to ribbons and elastic web, of which Coventry, Nuneaton, Atherstone, and the surrounding villages are the chief seats. It is, however, in manufactured metals, commonly known as hardware, that Warwickshire is *facile princeps*, Birmingham being the metropolis of these trades, not only for England, but for all the world, while Coventry has of late years developed a great 'cycle' industry. A brief *résumé* of the specialities of Birmingham is given in the description of that town, and those who are further interested are recommended to obtain Mr. Timmin's interesting work on the *Midland Industries*.

### Railway Communication.

Whether from the N. or from the S., from the E. or from the W., from London or from Liverpool, where there yearly land so many hundreds of destined pilgrims to the shrine of Shakspeare, no county in England is of easier access by rail than Warwickshire. The main line of the *London and North Western* system runs through it from Rugby to Tamworth, a great high-road from London to Ireland, Scotland, and the North, traversed by ceaseless relays of expresses. From the great junction of Rugby—so curiously reproducing the antique conditions of the 'high cross' of the Watling Street and Fosseway, a few miles further N.—lines run to Coventry and Birmingham, Leamington, Leicester (Midland), Market Harborough, and Northampton. The *Great Western* main line to Birmingham, Manchester, and Liverpool traverses the county diagonally, entering it near Fenny Compton, and running through Leamington, Warwick, and Birmingham, throwing off a cross line from Hatton by Bearley (branch to Alcester) to Stratford-on-Avon and Honeybourne, where

it forms a junction with the G.W.R. line from King's Sutton through Chipping Norton to Evesham, which affords the readiest railway communication with the extreme southern portion of the county. The *Midland* serves the county on the N. and W., with a chief centre at Birmingham. The route from London to Birmingham is by Leicester and Nuneaton. Through Birmingham runs the main line from the West to Derby, and branches thence to Sutton Coldfield and Walsall. Another line, partly in Warwick and partly in Worcester, connects Birmingham and Evesham by Redditch and Alcester. And from this line at Broom the *East and West Junction* Railway runs through Stratford-on-Avon *viâ* Fenny Compton (G.W.R.) to the L. and N.W. system at Towcester and Blisworth, thus connecting the three. An important local line is that from Nuneaton (L.N.W.R.) *viâ* Coventry to Leamington; while another N. and S. branch links Whitacre Junction (N.R.) to Hampton-in-Arden. Thus the whole of the county is within easy railway reach, though if this were not so the tourist in Warwickshire should be the last to complain, seeing that there is no county in England with such lovely roads, and that whether bicycling, riding, or walking, he has a perpetual succession of exquisite vistas along the wooded and turf-lined avenues which do duty for Warwickshire turnpikes. This is especially the case in the Arden, to which it is almost worth while to journey, if only for the walk from Coventry to Leamington.

### Geology.

Warwickshire is occupied almost entirely by the Liassic, Upper and Lower Triassic, Permian, and Carboniferous systems, with a few igneous intrusions, whilst in the extreme S. the Inferior Oolite of the Cotswolds just impinges upon the border. In the extreme N. some Upper Cambrian quartzites and shales occur: and in part of the central area detrital deposits of the Northern drift.

Between Nuneaton and Merevale the *Carboniferous* rocks show an abrupt ridge of an average height of 500 ft., bounded by a fault N.E., beyond which the New Red Marl extends towards Leicester, and the escarpment of the *Lias* between that town and Rugby. On the W., the Carboniferous and Permian rocks form rising ground

sloping westward, bounded by a fault, beyond which the New Red extends to Birmingham. The *Permian*, very largely developed in Warwickshire, commences on S. at Leek Wootton, runs up to Kenilworth and Berkswell, thence by Maxstoke to a little above Whitacre. At Baddeley Ensor it turns S.E. to Stockingford and Bedworth, thence by Foleshill to Gosford Green (close to Coventry), Stoneleigh, and Ashow, back to Leek Wootton.

The Warwickshire *coalfield* occupies a long narrow strip commencing S. near Hawkesbury, and stretching N.E. to Baddeley Ensor. The southern portion is only one to two miles broad, but at Baddeley Ensor it suddenly widens to four miles, extending N. through Polesworth as far as Seckington. This tract is underlaid by coal at a depth not greater probably than 2500 ft. in any part, often much less. At the S. end the whole of the Coal Measures are overlapped by New Red Sandstone, which passes across the edges of the beds and rests upon the Permian rocks. The prolongation of the seams has been proved as far S. as Wyken Colliery, about 2 miles N.E. of Coventry. There is a bed of limestone with *Spirorbis* at Sybil House, near Kingsbury, and at Arley and Ansley, where a fault brings the coal to the surface in a small detached area. A little S. of this, a mass of calcareous conglomerate forms a marked horizon, about the middle of the Permian beds, which at Corley rise to 625 ft.

The *Millstone Grit* is developed between Nuneaton and Atherstone to the W. It is traversed by two *trap* dykes—which may be seen in actual contact with the grit in a quarry at Tuttle Hill, close to Nuneaton, and also at Hartshill, where the grit is largely raised for road metal.

The *New Red or Trias* consists of pebble beds of the Bunter, with the Bunter Upper Red and Mottled Sandstone, of which there is only a small area, principally between Polesworth and Grendon. The Lower Keuper skirts the Permian E. from Warwick to Nuneaton, and again from Grendon to Austrey, and W. from Kenilworth to Maxstoke. To this succeeds the New Red Marl. These subdivisions, however, are not very constant, but thin away rapidly from E. to W.

Overlying the Keuper Marls conformably is the *Lower Lias*, a long escarpment of which commences at Long Itchington, running N.E. to Harborough Magna. The

boundary between the Keuper Marls and the Lower Lias is well seen between Long Itchington and Stretton-on-Dunsmore. There are also two outliers of Lower Lias—one at Knowle,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles long by  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile broad—and one at Moreton Bagot.

The palæontology of the county has several features of special interest, the more noteworthy fossils including :

*Coal Measures*.—Ferns, *Pecopteris*, *Neuropteris*, etc. ; *Spirorbis carbonarius* : Sybil Hill ; Ansley ; Exhall.

*Permian*.—The pebbles from the conglomerate series contain *Atrypa hemisphærica*. There are also found here *Calamites*, *Lepidodendron*, and *Stropholosis*, Allesley ; silicified trees of *Caulerpites oblonga* and *C. biangularis*, *Breea entassoides*, at Meriden ; *Labyrinthodon Bucklandi*, Kenilworth.

*Triassic (Keuper)*.—*Estheria minuta*, Rowington ; *Labyrinthodon giganteus*, *L. leptognathus*, *L. pachygnathus*, *L. scutulatus*, *L. ventricosus*, Warwick, Leek Wootton, Cubbington, Guy's Cliff, Leamington, and Coton End ; *Labyrinthodon leptognathus*, Shrewley Common. *Thecodontosaurus*, Leamington ; *Rhyncosaurus*, Grinsill ; *Cladyodon Lloydii*, Coton End ; fish jaws, Coventry.

*L. Lias*.—*Æchmodus angulifer*, *Ichthyosaurus tenuirostris*, *I. intermedius*, *I. communis*, Stratford-on-Avon. Insect remains, viz., *Orthophlebia*, *Æchna*, Binton ; *Ephemera*, *Chauliodes*, *Myrmeleon*, libellulideous wings, Bidford ; *Carabidæ*, *Gryllidæ*, *Telephonidæ*, Temple Grafton, Wilmcote, Copt Heath, and Knowle.

### Botany.

Warwickshire is a happy hunting-ground for the botanist, not so much for its rare specimens as for its general and typical yield. A brief list of the plants most commonly found includes :

*Galium Anglicum* ; *Senecio squalidus* ; *Pulicaria vulgaris* ; *P. dysenterica*, Marston Green ; *Physalis Alkekengi*, Foleshill ; *Empetrum nigrum*, Sutton Park ; *Crocus nudiflorus*, Warwick ; *Cynoglossum sylvaticum*, *Leucojum æstivum*, Stratford ; *Mæchia erecta*, Yarningale Common ; *Convallaria majalis*, Hay Wood ; *Lythrum salicaria*, Studley, Coughton ; *Hieracium Pilosella*, *Erica cinerea*, *E. tetralix*, *Vaccinium Vitis-idaea*, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Lastrea spinulosa*, *L. Thelypteris*, *L. Oreopteris*, *L. Filix-mas*, *L. dilatata*, Sutton Park ; *Sanguisorba*



*officinalis*, Budbrook ; *Spiræa filipendula*, Burton Dassett ; *Nuphar lutea*, banks of Avon ; *Apium graveolens*, Bishopston ; *Carex distans*, Morton Morrell, Southam ; *C. paludosa*, Warwick ; *C. præcox*, Sutton Park ; *C. pilulifera*, Yarningale, Sutton Park ; *Scirpus tabernæmontanus*, Grandborough, Southam, Holt ; *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Sanicula Europæa*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, Sutton Park ; *Eupatorium cannabinum*, Kenilworth, Marston Green ; *Bidens cernua*, Olton ; *Rosa spinosissima*, Snitterfield, Hatton, Tachbrook ; *Arundo Phragmites*, *A. calamagrostis*, Olton Pool ; *Lycopus arvensis*, *L. Europæus*, Elmdon, Knowle ; *Teesdalia nudicaulis*, Marston Green ; *Aira caryophyllea*, Yarningale ; *Sagina nodosa*, *Melyanthes trifoliata*, Sutton Park ; *Scutellaria galericulata*, Hampton, Knowle ; *S. minor*, *Iris Pseudacorus*, *Nymphæa alba*, Coleshill Pool ; *Campanula latifolia*, Warwick, Hill Wootton, Knowle ; *Vinca minor*, Harborne ; *Butomus umbellatus*, Olton and Warwick ; *Sagittaria sagittifolia*, Olton ; *Melampyrum pratense*, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Orchis maculata*, *Jasione montana*, Sutton Park ; *Dipsacus sylvestris*, Yarningale ; *Polystichum aculeatum*, *P. angulosum*, *Asplenium Trichomanes*, *A. Ruta-muraria*, *A. Adiantum-nigrum*, *Scolopendrium vulgare*, Sutton Park ; *Narthecium ossifragum*, Coleshill Pool.

There are some excellent museums in the county, of which that at Birmingham naturally takes the first place. There are others at Warwick, Coventry, Rugby, and (Shaksperian) at Stratford.

### Biography.

The 'worthies' of Warwickshire fill a long muster-roll ; and the 'worthy' fills the first place not merely in English literature, or in the English tongue, but in the civilized world. To no poetic shrine do so many pilgrims find their way as to the peaceful little town which is at once the birth and burial-place of William Shakspeare. But even were that name absent, surely the shire might still be proud of a list which includes such names as those of the famous Beauchamps, whose heiress linked the county with the fortunes of the famous king-maker ; the Cloptons ; Compton Bishop of London ; the Dudleys ; Dugdale, Michael Drayton, George Eliot, the Grevilles, the legendary St. Dubritius and Guy of Warwick, W. S. Landor, and traditionally Dick Whittington.

## EXCURSIONS.

## RAILWAY EXCURSION.

## I.—RUGBY TO TAMWORTH (L.N.W.R.).

Distance from Rugby.	Station.	Distance from Tamworth.	Distance from Rugby.	Station.	Distance from Tamworth.
5½	Brinklow.	22½	20	Asherstone.	7½
9	Shilton.	18½	23½	Polesworth.	4
11	Bulkington.	16½	27½	Tamworth.	
14	Nuneaton.	13½			

*Fares* : 4/10, 2/11, 2/3½ ; *ret.* : 8/3, 5/8.

*Rugby is the first station in Warwick on the L. and N.W. main line from Euston. (FARES : 12/9, 8/8, 6/10½ ; ret. 24/, 16/8). Passing through Middlesex, Herts, Bucks, and Northampton, Kelsby tunnel 1½ m. long is traversed, and within a m. Warwick entered near Hillmorton (ch. contains interesting mon., and an early 15th cent. brass to a lady). Rugby Junction (MUGBY JUNCTION of Dickens's satirical Christmas number) is one of the busiest railway centres in England, lines diverging E., W., N. and S. to London, Northampton, Market Harborough, Leicester, Tamworth for Ireland and the North, Coventry, Birmingham, and Leamington—a 19th cent. reproduction on a far more gigantic scale of the ancient intersection of the Fosseway and the Watling Street at High Cross already noted.*

RUGBY (Pop. 11,262; hotels, *George, Horse Shoes, Private*, good refreshment-rooms) is claimed on the strength of the 'by' as of Danish origin, and no doubt rightly, though the name is also found as Rocheberie. It is not, however, a place of historical interest; though there are still traces of a small castle which Dugdale

assigned to the troublous times of Stephen and Matilda. The one antiquity of Rugby claiming notice is the ch. of *St. Andrew*, originally attached to the abbey of Leicester. Only a fragment of the original building remains, the tower and the nave, which was formed into a north aisle when the fabric was restored in 1879 (*Butterfield*). The style is generally Dec., and the building now consists of a nave, S. and two N. aisles, transepts, and a tower at the W. end. This tower is of great interest, square, lofty, and plain, without the support of a single buttress. The lower windows are very narrow and some distance from the ground—mere loopholes. The belfry windows are square-headed, of two lights, trefoiled in the head, and divided by a plain mullion. The only entrance was through the church. Inside the tower is a fireplace, the flue of which is carried up through the thickness of the wall to the perforated battlement. It is evident that the whole arrangement was with a view to defence.—(*Bloxam*.) In the interior is a good reredos of alabaster and marble, also mons. to Thos. Crossfield, 1744, a former headmaster of the school, and to Joseph Cave, 1747, father of Edward Cave, the founder of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, and some modern glass. Rugby contains (with its suburb of New Bilton) three other chs.: Holy Trinity, blt. 1854, by the late *Sir G. G. Scott*, cruciform with central tower, and side chapel decorated by *Bodley*; St. Matthew, modern E. Eng., contains a mon. to Mrs. Bloxam, a sister of Sir T. Lawrence (Mr. Matthew Bloxam, the well-known ecclesiologist, was a native and resident of Rugby); St. Oswald, New Bilton, is by *Street*. St. Marie R.C. ch. and monastery, in the Dunchurch Road, is a fine building by *Welby Pugin*, which took the place of an earlier building by Pugin the elder, with a tower and spire 200 ft. in height completed by *Whelan*, and a large amount of decoration both inside and outside. It is worth remark that a small provincial town like Rugby should possess the architectural creations of so many noted men as Pugin, Sir Gilbert Scott, G. E. Street, and Butterfield. A noteworthy charitable building is the Hospital of St. Cross, built and endowed in 1884 by Mr. A. H. Wood.

But Rugby town must play the second part to famous *Rugby School*, now entered well into its fourth cent. It was founded in 1567 by one Lawrence Sheriff, a Rugbeian

(though he has been claimed for Brownsover), sometime citizen and grocer of London, who gave his estates in trust to George Harrison of London, gentleman, and Bernard Field, citizen and grocer of London, to establish a free grammar school and maintain almsmen. More fortunate than most charities, 'Rugby' has reaped the advantage of the great increase in value of the endowment lands. The first site occupied was near the ch. ; but in the middle of the last century the school was removed to its present position at the head of High St. (a m. from the station). Here there has been building and rebuilding, enlarging and extending, and still with every advance the need for fresh accommodation has seemed to grow. Originally but a local school, it soon became of great note in Warwickshire, and eventually one of England's mystic seven, before the rise of the modern collegiate and proprietary establishments which now so thickly dot the ground. The culminating point of Rugby's renown was the headmastership of Dr. Arnold, 1828-42. He not only raised it to the first rank but may be said to have metamorphosed the whole system and *morale* of public school teaching. The success of such a great institution so much depends upon the headmaster, that Rugby, like other schools, has had its ebb and flow ; but even with the extraordinary competition of modern days, its reputation is worthily kept up, and justifies the hope of the old motto, *Floreat Rugbeia*. In Lawrence Sheriff Street is a fine Elizabethan frontage by *Hakewill*, relieved by a tower gateway (over which is the library and class-room of the sixth form) leading into the old quadrangle, which contains the various schools and the entrance hall of the School House. The 'Big School' is on the r. On the W. of the old is the new quadrangle, which contains the Science Schools and the Chapel, originally built in 1820, but metamorphosed in 1871 by the addition of transepts and an apse, surmounted by a tower of 105 ft., with an octagonal lantern, from designs by *Butterfield*. The interior is elaborately decorated, and contains a number of stained glass windows *in memoriam* of Rugbeians who fell in the Crimean war (thirty-three, a goodly contingent), and also to twenty-seven who fell in the Indian Mutiny. The glass of the E. window, from a monastery in Flanders, and the gift of Dr. Arnold and other masters, is said to be by *Dürer*—subject, the Adoration. There are monuments with effigies to former

headmasters: to Dr. James, d. 1804, by *Chantrey*, with a Latin inscription by the late Bp. Butler; to Dr. Wooll, d. 1827, by *Westmacott*; Dr. Arnold, with an inscription by the Chevalier Bunsen; also to assistant-masters, Revs. A. Grenfell, A. Merivale, C. Mayor, H. Highton, and G. Kennedy. There is a memorial window to Rev. H. J. Buckoll, master for more than forty years. The organ, by *Bryceson*, is of great beauty. The fabric is of brick with stone dressings. Along the front of the schools on the S. stretches the Close, a noble playground, timbered with fine old trees, and in proper time and season resounding with the shouts of the cricketers or the football players at 'Big-side' or 'punt-about.' At the S.E. corner is an old moated tumulus, usually known as the 'Island.' W. runs the Dunchurch road, with the R. C. ch. and convent; and E. the Barby Road with masters' houses of modern build, replacing old houses known as Anstey's and Price's.

The Temple Reading Room and Museum, the memorial of the headmastership of Dr. Temple, Bishop of Exeter and of London, lies E. of the playground, and was opened in 1879. The library is a good one and the museum contains some excellent pictures by *Turner*, *Calderon*, *Copley Fielding*, *Stansfeld*, *Cox*, *Cotman*, *Wouvermans*, *Masaccio*, *Bol*, and *Velasquez*; and architectural drawings by *Michelangelo*. Among the antiquities the armour is noteworthy. A memorial of another headmaster is the swimming-bath south of the Close, given to the school by Dr. Jex Blake.

Beyond the school there is little to note in Rugby itself, but it has attracted and still attracts a good number of residents for the sake of education (town boys being admitted on advantageous terms), and has a thriving industry of digging lias clay and making cement. The country round is pretty, though possessing no striking features. (See Rimer's *Rambles round Rugby*.) It will be found dealt with generally under the various railway excursions of which Rugby is the starting point, with many hints in *Tom Brown*. There are, however, two exceptions.

#### EXCURSIONS FROM RUGBY.

1. *Clifton-on-Dunsmore*, 2½ m. E. on the line to Market Harborough (station Clifton Mill), is a village prettily situated on a rocky hill, very near the Watling St. and

the Leicestershire border. The ch. (E. Eng.) has a mon. to Orlando Bridgeman, 1721. The neighbourhood has many Roman remains, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. is the site of Tripontium, near the village of Catthorpe, together with several tumuli. About half way thither a road (l.) turns off to Newton, the birthplace, 1691, of Edward Cave, who established the *Gentleman's Magazine*, which under various forms has existed ever since. An inn on the Watling St. is still called by his name. From Clifton, follow the valley of the Avon (or the canal bank) to Brownsover, near the junction of the Avon and the Swift (familiar as the old bathing locality of Rugby boys). The little E. Eng. ch. was restored by the late *Sir G. G. Scott*. It has some good lancet windows and a pulpit, said to have been brought from a Belgian monastery. The scenery at Brownsover Mill is very pretty. The walk may be extended to *Newbold*, in a picturesque situation between the canal and the Avon, which here is somewhat devious. The ch. has a fine Perp. porch.

2. There is no station on the Midland branch to Leicester, within the Warwickshire limits, but less than a couple of m. over the Leicestershire border is Ullesthorpe, and 3 m. to the S.E. lies *Lutterworth*, the famous home of Wycliffe, whence his ashes were carried by brook into Swift, Swift into Avon, Avon into Severn, Severn into the narrow seas, thence into the main ocean—to paraphrase old Fuller.

The Trent Valley line turns off outside the Rugby station, between the Birmingham and the Midland lines, crossing the Avon by a viaduct, and running close to the village of Newbold (r.) and Holbrook Grange (l.). At  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. the Oxford canal is crossed, leaving r. on high ground the village of *Harborough Magna*. The ch. has a memorial window to the late Sir T. Skipwith.

$5\frac{1}{2}$  m. BRINKLOW. This station lies at the point where the railway crosses the Fosseway, and serves *Stretton-under-the-Fosse* r. and *Brinklow* l. This last is an interesting village, containing a tumulus (Brinklow Tump) and camp, both of Roman origin, in the direct line of the Fosseway. There are traces of a covered way in connection with the tumulus at Bensford Bridge. The ch. is Perp. Brinklow is only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the E. lodge at Coombe Abbey (Earl of Craven), which is therefore more

accessible for the pedestrian from this part of the county than from Coventry. The ch. of *Monks Kirby*, 2m. N.E. (Dec.) has chancel, nave with aisles, two chapels, and W. tower. It was formerly noted for a very fine spire, but this was partly taken down by the parishioners, blind to its beauty, who only thought of sparing the rates by minimizing possible repairs. There are several interesting mons. of the Feilding family, and a rude stone effigy supposed to be that of Geoffry de Wirce, the founder. Close to Monks Kirby is the hamlet of Brockhurst, beyond which is *Newnham Paddox*, seat of the Earl of Denbigh, whose family (that of the Feildings) acquired it in Henry VI.'s reign, by marriage with the grand-daughter and heiress of Robert de Newnham. The mansion was restored by *Wyatt*. Among the paintings are *Gerbier's* portrait of the Infanta Maria of Spain, and portraits by *Vandyck*, *Kneller*, and *Gainsborough*. The chapel (R.C.) has a fine carved reredos and altar-piece in coloured marbles.

Brinklow is the nearest station for *High Cross*, direct along the Fosseway, the reputed site of the Roman station of Vennones, and later of the Saxon Clayceastre. A pillar, much the worse for wear, was erected in 1711 to denote the position, and commemorate the restoration of peace by Queen Anne. Upon this elevated ground, whence, on a clear day, 57 chs. may be seen, stood one of the three great fire beacons of Warwickshire.

9m. SHILTON. A little to l. is Ansty, the ch. of which has a memorial spire to Gen. Adams, who fell at Inkerman. 3m. N.E. on the road to Hinckley (6½m.) is Wolvey, where Edward IV. was surprised by the Earl of Warwick, and taken to Middleham Castle in Yorkshire. According to Dugdale a hermitage existed near this village. Lady Dorothy Smyth was burnt here in 1555 for brutally strangling her husband, Sir Walter Smyth, of Shelford.

11m. BULKINGTON. The ch. (¾m. r.), which formerly belonged to Leicester Abbey, contains the work of an amateur sculptor named Richard Hayward, who resided at Weston Hall—a marble communion table, 'on the surface of which is The Last Supper.

14m. NUNEATON (Pop. 11,580; hotels, *Newdigate Arms*, *Bull*) is a growing town, much older than it looks, and of some importance as a railway centre. The L.N.W. throws

off branches here to Coventry and Leicester, and the Midland line from Leicester to Birmingham passes through, the two stations being about a m. apart. There is also a Midland branch to Ashby-de-la-Zouch. Brisk and stirring, on the Anker, Nuneaton has a considerable trade in cotton, woollen, and worsted spinning, while in the neighbourhood are collieries and foundries. The first part of the name was derived from the abbey of St. Mary, the foundations of which are still to be seen in the outskirts near the Midland station. A modern ch. has been built on the spot from designs by *Relfe*, intended to be a reproduction of the style. The parish ch. belonged to the monastery of Lira in Normandy, and contains a noteworthy mon. to Sir Marmaduke Constable, besides others to the families of Trotman and Stratford. There is a grammar school of repute, founded by Edward VI. A little S. are the manufacturing villages of Chilvers Coton (which has a station on the line to Coventry) and Attleboro', where ribbons, cotton thread, and elastic web are produced; and about the same distance N. is the village of Weddington, on the banks of the Anker. The ch. contains a mon. to Humphrey Adderley, 1598, and an altar-piece of the Crucifixion after *Vandyck*.

There are no Midland stations within the county E. and N. of Nuneaton; but there is a short and very interesting excursion via the Ashby line to Shenton, the centre of the district in which was fought the battle of Bosworth August 22, 1485. Market Bosworth is the station beyond Shenton.

From Nuneaton the line follows the course of the Anker, the scenery of which is in many places very pleasing. 16m. (r.) is *Caldecote Hall*, scene of a gallant defence made in 1642 by Geo. Abbott against an attack by the Royalists under Prince Rupert. The owner, Colonel Purefoy, a Parliamentary leader, was absent, and the garrison consisted of Mr. Abbott, his son-in-law, Mrs. Purefoy, the maid-servants, and eight men. All the pewter dishes and all the plate were melted down for bullets, and it was not until the Royalists had set fire to the house that Mrs. Purefoy rushed out and implored protection for the lives of the garrison, which was granted. The old manor house has disappeared. The ch. contains a mon. to Geo. Abbott, commemorating this event, and



some effigies of the Purefoy family. Two m. further (r.) is Mancetter (*post*).

20m. ATHERSTONE, an antique little town which, as the milestone at the door of the *Old Red Lion* duly sets forth, is 100m. distant alike from London, Liverpool, and Lincoln. The Watling Street, here deflected a little to the N. by the Anker, forms the main thoroughfare. During some recent drainage operations, actual Roman work was found, the stones joined by strong cement. The town, which has a specialty for the making of hats, will not detain the tourist, though there is a good deal to interest and much pretty scenery in the neighbourhood. The ch. has an octagonal tower between the nave and chancel, the latter portion partitioned off from the rest of the building. Henry VII., when Earl of Richmond, dined at the *Three Tuns Inn*, on the day before the Bosworth Field battle. Atherstone contains a grammar school dating 1573.

#### EXCURSIONS FROM ATHERSTONE.

There are three excursions worth making from Atherstone, which a fair walker may very well combine in one.

1. *Mancetter*,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. on the Nuneaton Road E., is the site of the Roman station Manduessedum, which extended over six acres, and on the site of which traces of Roman domestic buildings and coins have been found. The ch. is in the camp enclosure, and has interesting stained glass, said to have been brought from Merivale Abbey, one of the abbots of which, *temp.* Henry VI., founded here a chantry and guild, of which some trace is left in a dwelling-house. Mancetter House was the residence of the Glover family, one of whom suffered martyrdom at Coventry, as did also, in 1577, another Mancetter inhabitant, a Mrs. Joyce Lewis, *née* Curzon, who was burned at Lichfield. There is a mon. to her in the ch. The village has a group of almshouses, founded 1725 by James Gramer, goldsmith, of London.

2. To the S. of Atherstone lie *Oldbury Camp* and *Hartshill*; 4m. from Atherstone, but less from Mancetter, the walk opening up a lovely country. From Atherstone take the road r. leading to Bentley, crossing the canal, and then following a footpath l.

3. To the S. W. 1m. is *Merevale* (an exceedingly pretty walk of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Mancetter across country; and still prettier if the longer round is taken by Hartshill). Merevale Park with its honoured Dugdale associations is seated

on high ground 400 feet above the sea, commanding delightful views. To the N. W. is Merevale ch. and the site of Merevale Abbey, one of the three great Cistercian houses of Warwickshire, founded by Robert Lord Ferrars, in 1148. The remains are by no means so important as at the sister foundations, Coombe and Stoneleigh. The refectory, however, remains, and contains part of the old pulpit. This room is called the 'hall' in the inventory of the Abbey, in which document the furniture is valued at 3*s.* 4*d.* The foundations of the ch. were exposed in 1849, and showed that the ground plan was very simple, a long narrow nave, with narrower aisles, two short transepts and a short choir. The entire length was 230 ft., the breadth of the nave 28 ft., of the aisles 15 ft., the length and breadth of the choir 40 ft. and 21 ft. W. of the Abbey was the gatehouse, which has disappeared; but the gatehouse chapel is now the parish ch. It formerly consisted of nave and aisle (divided by two pointed arches) and a chancel. 'The latter is gone, the aisles have been demolished, and the ancient nave alone forms a kind of ante-chapel to the present ch. But here comes the singularity of the structure, for eastward is a nave with aisles constituting the greater portion of the present ch.—(*Bloxam*). The E. window is exceedingly good, and contains ancient stained glass of the 14th cent., that in the N. aisle is of the 15th cent. There are remains of the rood and of a Jesse window. The mons. are very interesting. There is a brass of a knight and his lady (*temp.* Henry VI.), with sculptured effigies of the same period; also an effigy of a knight in shirt of mail, his legs protected by pantaloons of the same material—over the whole a surcoat of linen, the skirts of which nearly reach the feet; a shield is affixed to the arm. It probably represents William, third Earl Ferrars, 1254. The high tomb and effigies of alabaster are those of John Handerwell and wife—he was a bailiff of Coventry in the 15th cent. There are also mons. to the families of Dugdale and Stratford, the latter of whom bought Merevale in the 17th cent., prior to which it had been in the possession of the Ferrarses.

23½m. POLESWORTH, previous to reaching which are passed on r. the village of *Grendon* and Grendon Hall, in a pretty park watered by the Anker. The ch. is Dec. and has stained glass in memory of the Chetwynd family. At Polesworth there was a Benedictine Nunnery until 1539,

called by Dugdale the earliest religious house in Warwickshire. Fragments of the refectory are incorporated with the Vicarage. In the ch. is a 14th cent. effigy of an abbess, quite unique as regards costume. She wears the coif and wimple, and over the head the veil. A large gown with wide skirts completes the dress, while at the feet a hart is lying down. The neighbourhood, now invaded by collieries and brickyards, is rather rich in old houses, the chief being *Pooley Hall* (now a farm), very picturesque, built by Sir T. Cockain in 1509.

27½m. TAMWORTH (Pop. 6,614; hotels, *Castle, White Horse, Temperance*) also a station on the Midland line to Derby, which has an exceptionally good aspect from the railway and is very prettily placed overlooking the Tame—here crossed by a bridge of six arches—but which save for its leading buildings hardly improves on acquaintance. It is conspicuous for a considerable distance, by its ch. tower, and its *castle*, which, perched on a knoll, 130 ft. above the river, dominates the town and neighbourhood. Such a position was sufficient to ensure the erection of a fortress in the early times, and *Æðelfleda* did not neglect the opportunity. The principal interest of the building is, that some of her work actually remains, the curtain wall containing examples of Saxon herring-bone masonry. The noble and massive circular keep, the principal existing portion, is inhabited, and is not shown except by special application. It contains a room in which Mary Queen of Scots passed her time when a prisoner here. Notwithstanding its great strength and situation, Tamworth Castle does not appear to have taken any very leading part in the history of the country. After the Conquest it was given to the Marmions, witness Sir Walter Scott. To them succeeded Alexander de Neville; while the Ferrars family gained possession in the time of Henry VI. It now belongs to the Marquis of Townshend.

The ch. is very interesting (rest. by *Champneys*), nave and aisles with clerestory, transepts, chancel, and venerable tower of three stages, the red sandstone of which it is built showing ragged outlines. It is remarkable for having a double staircase, one winding over the other; and notice should be taken of the outside passage over the W. doorway, by which one of these staircases enters the tower. Under the tower is a mon. to one of the Ferrars family, and the tower itself is separated from the nave by a W. window with beautiful tracery, but no

glass. The nave has four bays, being divided by pointed arches from the aisles; but the arches of the transepts are fine examples of E. Nor., with dogtooth moulding. The clerestory is continued to the end of the chancel, the three lights nearest the E. end being of stained glass, as are those beneath and the E. window, a very large undivided light—subject, the Company of the Apostles. In the chancel (N. wall) are effigies of a knight and lady, with 12 compartments underneath, containing mutilated figures; also two recumbent stone effigies. All these are under a beautiful double canopy. The S. transept (which contains the organ) is of two bays, but the N. of only one, separated from the aisle by a fine circular arch.

The other objects of interest in Tamworth are the Town Hall, the lower portion supported by Nor. arches, and the statue of the Premier, Sir Robert Peel, who represented Tamworth for over 20 years. Drayton Manor, his seat, lies 2m. on the Staffordshire side of the town, which is now wholly in that county.

Tamworth lies on the borders of Stafford and Warwick, and a somewhat isolated tongue of Warwickshire runs N.E. towards Ashby. In *Newton Regis* ch. ( $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Polesworth) there is a 14th-cent. trifoliated slab under an arch in the chancel, containing the bust of a priest with missal, breviary, and chalice. Above are angels waving thuribles, and below are acolytes. *Seckington*, 4m. from Polesworth (but Tamworth is more convenient), was, according to the Saxon chronicles, the seat of Æðelbald, Cuthred, and Beorned. There is an entrenched camp here, which was probably of British origin, and utilised by the Romans—if Camden is right in thinking it the site of the Roman *Secundunum*. The camp is circular and on its N. side is a tumulus, as at Brinklow.

### RAILWAY EXCURSION.

#### II.—RUGBY TO COVENTRY AND BIRMINGHAM (L.N.W.R.)

Distance from Rugby.	Station.	Distance from B'ham.	Distance from Rugby.	Station.	Distance from B'ham.
$6\frac{1}{2}$	Brandon and Wolston.	26	$20\frac{1}{2}$	Hampton in Arden.	10
$11\frac{1}{2}$	Coventry.	19	$23\frac{1}{2}$	Marston Green.	7
15	Tile Hill.	$15\frac{1}{2}$	$26\frac{1}{2}$	Stechford.	4
17	Berkswell.	$13\frac{1}{2}$	$28\frac{1}{2}$	Adderley Park.	2
			$30\frac{1}{2}$	Birmingham.	

*Fares* : to Coventry—2/., 1/3, -/11½; *ret.* 3/6, 2/5 :  
to Birmingham—5/2, 3/10, 2/6; *ret.* 9/., 6/6.

The line from Rugby to Birmingham runs due W., the Midland to Leicester and the Trent Valley branching off r., and the line to Leamington l. About 4m. to r., near the rl. is *Church Lawford*, overlooking the Avon, the ch. of which (Dec.) was rebuilt in 1872. In this parish lived the Garfields, ancestors of the U.S. President. Nearly a m. to N. is *King's Newnham*, where a ruined tower is all that is left of the ch. Lord John Scott made some interesting discoveries in 1852, while excavating on the site, of coffins of Francis Earl of Chichester, his wife and daughter. The body of the former was embalmed and in excellent preservation. In Dugdale's time the interior of the ch. was adorned with good fresco paintings. A little E. of the village is a mineral bath, said to be useful in curing rheumatism and dyspepsia. It has been restored and made available by the Buccleuch family. The valley of the Avon here has much interest for the geologist, from the bones of rhinoceros and mammoth found in the gravel. The river is crossed just before reaching

6½m. BRANDON. Close by are very scanty remains of *Brandon Castle*, built soon after the Conquest by Geoffrey de Clinton; destroyed by the Barons under Simon de Montfort; rebuilt, and again destroyed. The ruins consist of a few masses of rubble work forming the heart of the walls, from which the cut stone facings have been stripped. On the opposite side of the river is *Wolston*; the cruciform ch. has a good Nor. doorway, with zigzag moulding. *Wolston* possessed a priory (now a farmhouse), a cell attached to an alien abbey. A family of some note, named Clarke, resided here, one of whom took part in the Savoy Conference, 1661. His grandson was the celebrated annotator. Silk weaving is carried on in the village and near *Ryton*. Brandon is a convenient station whence to visit *Coombe Abbey* (*post*) 2½m., although this is usually undertaken from Coventry. The walk is very charming along the *Twelve o'clock Avenue*, one of the lovely wooded roads for which Warwickshire is famous. The ch. of *Ryton-on-Dunsmore* is Nor., and has a Nor. capital of singular design, a very narrow one-light window, and a brass of a prebendary of Lichfield. There is another pretty view as the rl. crosses the valley of the Sowe and enters the old county of Coventry. Soon afterwards three graceful spires appear on r. and the traveller reaches

11½m. COVENTRY. (Junction with branches to Kenilworth and Leamington l.; to Nuneaton r. Pop. 52,720; hotels, *King's Head*, *Queen's*, *Craven Arms*, *Three Tuns*, *Temperance*; numerous refreshment rooms of various kinds.) Coventry is one of the most interesting cities in England. Legend and poetry have made it famous for all time; in antiquarian wealth it is abounding; its industrial activities claim a place in the front rank of manufacturing towns. Of the early history little is known, only that the name is taken from a convent, founded at the end of the 7th or beginning of the 8th cent. by St. Osburg the virgin. But this and the town which clustered round were destroyed in 1016 by Knut and Edric; and all is blank again until, in the reign of the Confessor, Leofric, Earl of Mercia, founded the great Benedictine monastery. His wife was the famous Godiva, touching whom is told the utterly impossible myth, which Tennyson enshrined in the noble verse that makes 'I waited for the train at Coventry' so familiar throughout the whole English-speaking world. The story in its bald simplicity affirms that Leofric was exceedingly harsh and tyrannical towards the townsfolk, levying heavy taxes and placing vexatious boundaries to their liberties. The burghers solicited the good offices of Godiva, who approached her husband, and requested him, for her sake, to end their grievances. He graciously acquiesced, on condition that she should ride naked on horseback through the streets of Coventry. To his astonishment she agreed, and great preparations were made by the people on the eventful day, everybody being commanded to retire within doors and darken their windows. Then through the deserted streets Godiva rode with no other covering but her long hair. The only mischance that happened was that a tailor, unable to restrain his curiosity, gazed from an upper window, and was immediately smitten with blindness, ever since which 'Peeping Tom' has shared with Lady Godiva the traditional glories of Coventry. Of course a charter of freedom was bestowed upon the town, and in the following words:

'I, Luriche, for the love of thee,  
Doe make Coventry toll-free,'

which were duly inscribed on a scroll placed in the hand of Leofric in an ancient window in *Holy Trinity* ch.

How the story was born and grew it is impossible to say ; but it cannot be traced further back than Roger of Wendover or his precursor, John de Cella, some century and half after the assigned date ; there is no reason to give Leofric the character assigned to him—indeed, historical evidence is all the other way ; and proof is clear that in Godiva's days Coventry was at most a village, and not in any modern sense a town. As to 'Peeping Tom,' he first appears on the scene so late as the reign of Charles II., and his figure, set in the wall of the *King's Head*, is really that of a man in armour *temp.* Henry VII., and is suggested as originally a figure of St. George from one of the religious houses. It first did duty as the inquisitive tailor in the wall of a house in Greyfriars Lane. The Godiva pageant, however, keeps alive popular faith in the story, which it is painfully heretical to doubt in the ancient city. Formerly held annually, but now only at intervals of four or five years, in this pageant the ride of Godiva is set forth with the limitations due to modern ideas of decorum, and accompanied with a fanciful array of guilds and civic bodies.

Leofric's monastery waxed exceeding wealthy, inasmuch 'that Robert de Limesei, bishop of the diocese in the time of William Rufus, scraped from one beam that supported the shrines 500 marks of silver.' It was furthermore free from episcopal jurisdiction until the same bishop obtained the custodianship of the house, and removed his see from Chester to Coventry, the priory ch. becoming the cathedral. This was the beginning of misfortune for the monastery, a series of feuds taking place between monks and bishops, until, in the reign of Richard I., the former were finally expelled for assaulting Bp. Hugh Novant. The cathedral was destroyed after the Dissolution, but there are traces left adjoining Trinity ch. It must have been a building of great magnificence ; and the conventual buildings generally were very extensive.

Ranulph, Earl of Chester, gave new charters to town and monastery, the inmates of which were attached to the royal cause and suffered much at the hands of Simon de Montfort and the Barons, who had their headquarters at Kenilworth. Among the marks of royal favour are the three feathers in the city arms.

Two Parliaments were held at Coventry. One, that

known as *Parliamentum indoctum* (from the exclusion of lawyers), in 1404 by Henry IV., who, some years before, had figured in the lists of Coventry before Richard II., in the trial between himself (while Harry Bolingbroke) and the Duke of Norfolk, when the King sentenced them both to banishment. The second (called by the Yorkists *Parliamentum diabolicum*, from the number of attainders against the House of York) was held by Henry VI., who, with his wife, Margaret of Anjou, were great friends to the city ; and it was then that the Duke of York and his son Edward (afterwards Edward IV.) were attainted. Though the Earl of Warwick subsequently held Coventry against the latter king, he pardoned the insult, and resided here for some time at the royal manor of Cheylesmore. After him, Richard III. and Henry VII. successively came, the latter, after the battle of Bosworth, staying at the house of the mayor, Robert Onley, a descendant of a former mayor, whose father had been standard-bearer to Edward III. Very few towns in England can boast of so many royal associations as Coventry, among the many monarchs who visited it being Mary of Scots, who was imprisoned first in the *Bull Inn* and then in the Mayor's Parlour. The Princess Elizabeth was brought thither for safety from Coombe Abbey at the time of the Gunpowder Plot, the latter place being considered unsafe for her by Lord Harrington. The glory of Coventry had then been for some time on the wane ; for though it was described by Taylor, the water-poet (1639) as 'a faire, famous, sweet and ancient city, so walled about with such strength and neatnesse as no city in England may compare with it,' its population had largely decreased and its industries diminished. During the Civil War the Coventry burghers declared against the King, which, perhaps, they regretted, when, a few years afterwards, the walls, which had stood for 300 years, were demolished.

Two only of the original twelve gates remain, *Swanswell* and *Cook Street*, with portions of *Cheylesmore*. 'Sent to Coventry' is said to have originated in the unpleasant experience of the Cavaliers carried to the city for safe keeping, the most unlucky being the remnant of the Scottish force of the Duke of Hamilton in 1648.

'The three tall spires' strike the key-note of Coventry archæology. Nearest to the station is that of *Christ Ch.*,



the last relic of the ch. of the Greyfriars. It is an exceedingly beautiful structure, but the ch. attached, built 1829-32, is a poor example of Rickman's early modern Gothic. St. Michael and Holy Trinity, the other two, are, however—the former particularly—among the finest examples of parish chs. in the kingdom. They stand close together in what must have been the heart of ancient Coventry, only the road intervening; and when the Priory ch. was also standing by them, the triple grouping must have been unexcelled for picturesque grandeur. Originally the site of *St. Michaels* was occupied by a Nor. structure, which in its turn was replaced by an E.Eng.; and the latter again by the present noble example of E.Perp., which originated in the liberality of the wealthy city family of Botoner. Two brothers and two sisters engaged in the work, which began with the tower in 1373, erected by the brothers, the sisters adding the spire in 1432, and subsequently building the nave, which is manifestly later than the noble choir. The tower is in four stages, richly decorated in panel and set with statues in niches, mostly of saints but several historical, and including the builders. From the tower rises an octagonal lantern supported by eight flying buttresses of exceeding beauty and surmounted by the spire, which both Wren and Rickman agreed in considering one of the finest examples in the kingdom. The ch. is of enormous size (holding 3,000), and very rich in stained glass. The greatest length is 293 ft., the greatest breadth, 127 ft., and the tower vaulting is 90 ft. above the floor. There are two aisles on each side of the nave, the inner aisles being of equal length with the nave; but the others running through half the length only. The nave is separated from the aisles by arcades of six bays, surmounted by an exceedingly graceful clerestory, containing twelve four-light windows. The choir ends in a fine apse, and the orientations of choir and nave distinctly differ. The external aisles contain the chapels of the ancient guilds and mysteries. On the N. the Smiths', Girdlers', St. Lawrences, and the Drapers'; on the S. the Dyers', Cappers', and Mercers'. In the latter chapel is the organ; the Drapers' contains some interesting misereres. There are an exceptionally large number of mons., some very quaint, and including a fine work by *Chantrey* to Col. Hood. The pulpit is a good example of modern

metal work by Skidmore. The choir is richly decorated, and canopied niches between the windows of the apse are filled by figures by Lane of Birmingham. A quantity of ancient glass has been placed in the clerestory windows. Most of the glass, however, is modern. The three end windows, of great height, are by *O'Connor*, three transoms with four lights in each. They commemorate Queen Adelaide, and the subjects are scenes from the life of Christ. The centre window was presented by Rt. Hon. E. Ellice, M.P. The two remaining windows are, however, much the more interesting, as they contain old glass. In the N. chantry, the chapel of St. Lawrence, which formed the Consistory Court, are four windows with very good tracery, each of seven lights, and all by *Heaton and Butler*. The first on the top (N. side) given by Mr. Eaton—subject, scenes in the life of Solomon; the next (going W.) *in memoriam* to the Prince Consort—subject, scenes in the life of Moses. Underneath is an inscription to Thomas Bond, founder of the Bablake Hospital, MDVI. The third window is to the 8th Lord Craven, d. 1866—subject, scenes in the life of David. In the S. chantry, or Mercers' chapel, are other windows by *Heaton and Butler*. Though some of the modern glass is poor, yet the general effect, owing to the number and size of the windows, is very rich. Altogether fully to see St. Michaels will take more time than most tourists have at their disposal; but to the archæologist it is full of interest.

*Holy Trinity* ch. 'over the way' suffers from its close neighbourhood to its companion, but has the advantage of being cruciform, consisting of nave with aisles and an additional W. aisle, choir, and transepts; it is, like St. Michaels, a beautiful example of Perp., though in parts of earlier date. The choir is of unusual length, the nave 70 ft. high. A graceful tower and spire, 237 ft. in height, rises from the intersection, but the bells were removed from the tower and placed in a very peculiar wooden belfry N. of the ch., on the site of the old cathedral nave. The roof is finely illuminated in blue and gold. The piers which separate the nave from the aisles are angular, and hollowed or fluted. The clerestory has eight bays, each containing windows with Perp. tracery, and the tower a lantern with a groined roof. Like its neighbour, Trinity has various chapels. On the N. side, W. of

the porch, is the Archdeacon's chapel, once the Consistory Court. E. of the porch, adjoining the N. transept, is St. Thomas chapel, beneath which is a crypt. East of this transept, in which were Corpus Christi and Cellet's chantry, is the Mercers' or Marlers' chapel, which also has a crypt. The chapel of Our Lady forms a continuation of the N. chancel aisle, while the S. chancel aisle is the Butchers' chapel; the S. transept, the Jesus chapel; the S. aisle of the nave, the Tanners' or Barkers' aisle. The connection between the chs. and the commercial interests of the town is a most interesting feature. The pulpit is of stone, 15th cent.—an excellent example—and there is also a fine Elizabethan alms-box, the shaft covered with arabesque scroll work. The rood loft was carried across the chancel, one bay to the E. of the tower piers. A fresco painting over the chancel arch has been preserved. There is little old stained glass, but a good deal of modern; the E. window being a memorial of Mr. R. S. Cox; the W. window, of Dean Hook, once vicar of the parish. A portrait of the dean is in the vestry. The reredos is by the late *Sir G. G. Scott*, the subjects the Nativity, the Crucifixion, and the Ascension. Connected with the S. transept was formerly an old house, called Jesus Hall, in which the vicars lived, but that was taken down in 1742.

To the N. of the two chs. lay the Cathedral and the Priory, of which a few foundations have been exposed in front of the Bluecoat School, and, indeed, a fragment of the wall built into it; but most of the Priory site is covered by red brick houses.

The only other ancient ch. is *St. Johns* or Bablake, at the end of Smithford Street, restored in 1875 by Sir G. Scott, close to the site of the ancient Spon-gate. It is cruciform, consisting of choir, nave with aisles and clere-story, transepts, and tower arising from the intersection. At its restoration, the floor, which had been much raised, was reduced to its proper level, revealing the bases of the pillars. The choir has a distinct bend to the N., and the W. wall is not at r. angles with the adjoining walls. It had a doorway at the E. end, somewhat unusual; but this was replaced by a window at the time of the restoration. There is a stained glass window, given by Mr. Rotherham, and a reredos in memory of a former vicar. Here the unfortunate Scots Royalists (*ante*) were im-

prisoned. Close by St. Johns (which owes its erection to the guild of that name) is a beautiful example of half-timbered work in Bablake Hospital, founded by Thomas Bond, draper and mayor, 1506, for eighteen resident almsmen, now sixty-two. It contains a portrait of John Hales, founder of the Grammar School, *temp.* Henry VIII., which is attributed to *Holbein*. This *School* was originally held at the ch. of the White Friars, but was moved to its present site, once the ch. of St. Johns Hospital. It has an E. window with exceeding good tracery. One of its most celebrated scholars was Dugdale, the antiquary, 1615.

Not inferior in interest to any structure in Coventry is *St. Marys Hall*, the centre of the civic life, which has had of late to call loudly, and not in vain, for the hand of the preserving restorer. And no wonder, for it is just five centuries old, having been erected between 1394 and 1414 by the united Guilds of St. Mary, St. John the Baptist, Trinity, and St. Katherine. It lies immediately S. of St. Michaels, and once added its quota to the aspiring picturesqueness of the neighbourhood by a tower, of which a portion only remains. A carved stone porchway with groined roof leads from the street into a small court, W. of which is the great hall, and its underlying crypt. The hall itself is a noble room, 70 ft. by 30 ft., with three four-light Perp. windows on each side, and one of nine lights in the N. end richly filled with old glass, armorial and portrait, the work of John Thornton, of the city. The oaken roof is enriched with figures of angels playing on instruments. Here many royal and distinguished guests have been entertained. Beneath the N. window is the famous Coventry tapestry, which was exhibited at S. Kensington, and illustrates the close connection between Coventry and Henry VI., who was a member of the Trinity guild, commemorating his visit with Queen Margaret in 1451. It contains no less than 80 heads, and dates from the early part of the 16th cent. The centre of the chief compartment originally held a representation of God the Father, but this was taken away during reforming days and one of Justice substituted. In a recessed chamber at the W. is placed a beautiful figure of Lady Godiva. There is also a series of portraits of English sovereigns, from Elizabeth to Geo. IV., including one generally called a portrait of

**Queen Mary.** At the S. end is the Minstrel Gallery, in front of which is a collection of armour, weapons, and other mediæval curiosities. The other apartments consist of the Mayoress's Parlour, the Council Chamber, and the Armoury. The muniment-room contains the charter granted 1153 by Earl Ranulph; a letter from Queen Anne Boleyn, announcing the birth of the Princess Elizabeth; and another from Elizabeth herself, giving the mayor the responsibility of keeping Mary Queen of Scots in close custody. The original hall of the Guild Merchant, S. of the courtyard, has long been the kitchen, an interesting room, which has, doubtless, actively dispensed hospitality to countless visitors to the various Guilds. It has an opening in the centre of the roof, surmounted by a lantern, to let the smoke escape. The whole neighbourhood is rich in examples of domestic architecture, and there is a good specimen of carved beams and gables close to St. Mary's Hall, the only one of a whole row which has survived. The most characteristic street architecture is to be found adjoining Trinity ch., in Butcher Row, and in a narrow lane leading into Cross Cheaping.

Coventry, however, abounds in quaint corners and captivating nooks—few towns more so—and one of the most interesting features hitherto unnoted is *Fords Hospital* in Greyfriars Lane, dating from 1529, a very beautiful example of half-timbered work surrounding a little courtyard, gabled and carven, and with remains of its chapel over the gateway. Immediately to the N. of Trinity are several examples of old domestic architecture, and at the corner of Palmer Lane, the 'Pilgrim's Rest,' built in 1532 as a tablet records, on part of the site of the guest-house of the monastery, remains of portions of the W. front of which are incorporated in New Buildings adjacent and may there be seen. *St. Johns Hospital* in Silver Street fell at the Dissolution, and a free school was established in the chapel by John Hales, the grantee. This has been removed to new premises, but the building, now used as a mission room, has not lost all evidence of antiquity. In Earl Street is the still fine quadrangle of the *Hopkins house*, now known as Palace Yard. There are considerable remains of the monastery of the Carmelites or *Whitefriars*, founded in 1342. This, like St. Johns, passed into the hands of John Hales; and he in

1565 therein entertained Queen Elizabeth, who is traditionally said to have requited the welcome of the burghers by the rejoinder to their address—‘Good Lord, how fair ye be!’ by ‘Good lack, what fools ye be!’ In 1801 the buildings were converted into a *workhouse*, and such they still remain. The E. wing of the cloisters is now the dining-hall, and in place of the old ch., which has wholly disappeared, a room with groined roof adjacent is used as the chapel. The most interesting part of the remanent structure is the dormitory, which retains its ancient use. The modern residence called the *Charterhouse* is in the main an adaptation of the prior’s lodging of the monastery of the Carthusians, the foundation-stone of whose ch. was laid by Richard II. in 1385. There are several interesting features, especially the remains of a fine fresco.

Coventry has many good modern buildings—in chs. St. Marks, St. Peters, St. Thomas, and All Saints, with the R.C. St. Osburgs; in secular edifices the Market Hall, Corn Exchange, Free Library, and the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital. The chief *public park* is Swanswell, with a capital pool, laid out by the Corporation, and opened in 1883. The gardens of Park Hollows near the railway station were the scene of several martyrdoms in the 16th cent., Henrican and Marian; and hard by on the E. is the Cemetery, a witness to the taste of Sir Joseph Paxton. Spencer Park, Stivichall, 11ac. in extent, was given to the city as a recreation ground by Mr. J. Spencer in 1883. On the l. of the road to the city from the station is Greyfriars Green, with a statue of Sir Thomas White, a notable benefactor of the 16th cent., erected in 1883. Another ‘green’ is Gosford, Gosford Street, intended scene of the prohibited combat in 1397 between the dukes of Hereford (Henry IV.) and Norfolk. The city records claim this spot as the site of the beheadal of Earl Rivers and his son after the battle of Edgecot. On the way hither is Dover Bridge, over the Sherbourne. Here stood the vanished chapel of *St. George*, containing the blade-bone of the famous ‘dun cow’ (see Warwick), really—it is still in existence—the bone of a whale.

Mention must be made of Coventry industries, the city having been for five centuries the seat of special textile manufactures. In 1436 it was famous for woollen cloth caps and bonnets, and, subsequently, for blue thread,

whence the proverb 'He is true Coventry blue.' In 1581 the woollen trade took root, and continued the staple manufacture until the Turkey trade was destroyed in 1694. Then succeeded silk throwing and ribbon weaving, ever since more or less identified with the town, though few trades have had so many fluctuations, from the caprices of fashion, the introduction of new materials, and destructive foreign competition. Still, in the matter of ribbons, Coventry has fairly held its own, and certainly in the quality of work. Much home weaving is carried on, evidenced by the long windows in the upper storeys of many houses; for Coventry, though possessing some large factories, scarcely comes within the category of factory towns. Of late many new modifications of textiles have been introduced, worsted weaving, elastic web weaving, the manufacture of cambric frillings, gimp trimmings, and towels. Watchmaking was commenced about the middle of the last century, and the trade (especially in movements) now occupies a large number. Art metal work is also a notable feature, and many of the most beautiful lecterns and screens of modern and restored chs. have been produced here. Later, 'cycle' making has been a great source of industry.

#### EXCURSIONS FROM COVENTRY.

1. Rail to *Warwick, Leamington, and Kenilworth* [Sects. IV. and VIII.].
2. Rail to *Brandon and Rugby* [Sect. I.].
3. To *Coombe Abbey*, 4m. E., leaving the city by Gosford Green, and passing through Binley (inn: *Craven Arms*). 1½m. from Binley is the lodge entrance to Coombe Abbey, the beautiful residence of the Earl of Craven, situated in a charming park, overlooking a lake of 90 acres. [*As the house is not open to ordinary visitors, application for admission had better be made beforehand.*] The abbey was founded by Rd. de Camvill in 1151, the earliest Cistercian settlement in the county, the monks having been transplanted from Waverley, near Farnham. In 1547 it was granted by Edward VI. to the Earl of Warwick, and after his execution came to the Harrington family. Early in the 17th cent. the estate was purchased by Sir William Craven, Lord Mayor of London, with whose descendants it still remains. The chief

interest of Coombe Abbey is of a more romantic kind than that which attaches to its monastic inhabitants. When Lord Harrington was possessor, Princess Elizabeth, daughter of James I., was placed under his care for education, and lived there a considerable time; and during this period the Gunpowder Plot conspirators assembled at Dunchurch, and formed a plan for attacking the abbey and carrying off the Princess. This, however, was foiled by Lord Harrington's removing her to Coventry until the danger was over. At the age of sixteen she was married to Frederick, Elector Palatine, whose rather unfortunate career culminated in his accepting the crown of Bohemia. In this he was strongly backed up by his wife, who declared that she would rather eat bread only as a queen, than feast as merely an elector's wife. As King of Bohemia he was still more unlucky than as Elector Frederick, and after being deprived of his dominions and wandering about a homeless king, he died; whereupon his widow returned to England, and availed herself of Lord Craven's offer to take up her abode once more at the abbey. A strong platonic attachment sprung up between the Queen and Lord Craven, and it is even stated that she was privately married to him. At any rate, she testified her affection for him by leaving him, at her death, the greater part of her valuables.

The chief remains of the original abbey are parts of the cloisters, ranging back to the 12th cent. The first to interfere materially with the old structure was Lord Harrington; but the chief changes were made (before the reconstruction by Lord Craven in 1804) from the designs of *Inigo Jones*. The interior contains some fine rooms, amongst them the great gallery, the north parlour, the breakfast room, the Vandyke room, the cedar room, the gilt parlour, and the beauty parlour, so called from portraits of the ladies of Charles II.'s court. The most notable pictures are the portraits of Charles I. and Henrietta Maria, by *Vandyke*; the King and Queen of Bohemia, Prince Rupert, and Prince Maurice, by *Honthorst*; another portrait of Prince Rupert, by *Vandyke*; one of William, Earl Craven, by *Honthorst*; a portrait of Vandyke himself; Moses and the Serpent, by *Rubens*; Duchess of Cleveland (*Lely*).

4. With the preceding may very well be combined, varying the route going or coming, an excursion to



*Wyken*,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. N.E. (l. of the Hinckley road), where there is a Nor. ch. with a semicircular doorway and billet moulding. The manor-house was an old residence of the Cravens, and in the garden grew a celebrated apple known as the *Wyken Pippin*, brought by Admiral Craven from Holland. Near the spot where the road to Wyken is given off are slight traces of a ruin called *Caledon Castle*, built during the reign of Edward I., with moat, and hard by an ancient earthwork. The castle is only of interest as having been the lodging of Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, at the time of the trial between him and Harry of Hereford at Coventry. The village of *Sowe*, a little farther on, is worth visiting for its ch. Hence turn S. to Binley.

5. To *Stivichall*, 2m. S., turning off l. from the Warwick road, at the top of the hill above the station. But it is well to follow the Warwick road for some little distance and enjoy the beautiful avenue of oaks and the grassy rides. Warwickshire possesses many such roads, but none more lovely. *Stivichall* once had a grange, built by the Gregorys, an Elizabethan family, and a ch. said to have been of Saxon date. This was taken down at the beginning of the cent., and the present ch. erected, entirely the work of one mason's hands, William Green by name, who spent forty years on the building.  $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. S.W., very prettily situated, overlooking the valley of *Sowe*, is *Baginton*, with an E.Eng. ch., containing mons. to Sir W. Bagot and wife, 1400. The return to Coventry may be made by *Whitley*, the headquarters of Charles I. when he called on the city to surrender.

6. A good walker will find his account in extending his walk to *Stoneleigh Abbey* [Sect. VIII.]. The nearest station is Kenilworth, but it may be very pleasantly visited from Coventry.

From Coventry the main line runs due W. to  
15m. **TILEHILL.**

17m. **BERKSWELL.** The old well, which gives name to the village (1m. r.) still remains, with its stone framework. The ch. is Nor., the chancel a parallelogram with rectangular termination. There is a crypt; also a mon. to Sir J. Eardley Wilmot, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. At  $19\frac{1}{2}$ m. the rail crosses the Blythe to

$20\frac{1}{2}$ m. **HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN.** (*Junction with M.R. branch to Whitacre and Derby.*) The ch., placed on rising ground,

l., is Nor., and once had a very beautiful spire, which, according to Dugdale, was struck by lightning in 1603. Hampton-in-Arden derives the latter part of its name, like Henley-in-Arden, from lying in the wooded upland N. of the Avon. About 2m. r. is Packington Hall, seat of the Earl of Aylesford, and nearly the same distance N.E. is the village of *Meriden* (inn: *Bull's Head*). The S. aisle of the ch., originally Nor. if not Saxon, was a chantry built by John Wyard, esquire of Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, to whom there is a fine high tomb; there is another to Sir J. Walsh. St. Lawrence is said to have baptized the first converts in Meriden in a neighbouring well. On Meriden Heath, adjoining Packington, encamped the Duke of Cumberland on his way N. to meet the Pretender's Highlanders. The ch. at *Bickenhill* (l.) is Nor., and belonged to the nunnery of Merkyate in Bedfordshire. It has a stained glass E. window. Farther on is *Elmdon* ch., which has a mon. to the late Archdeacon Spooner.

23½m. MARSTON GREEN, near which are the schools and infirmary of the Birmingham Guardians. The line now crosses a small strip of Worcestershire. At

26½m. STECHFORD (*junction with connecting branch to Walsall, obviating the necessity for entering Birmingham*) the river Cole is crossed. 2m. N. is the moated grange of *Kinghurst*, and 1m. l. Yardley village, with the Saxon entrenchment of *Rents Moat* and a good half-timbered house called *Blakesley Hall*. The increasing signs of a great manufacturing centre soon give notice of the approach to the Midland metropolis.

30½m. BIRMINGHAM [Sect. V.].

### RAILWAY EXCURSION.

#### III.—NUNEATON TO BIRMINGHAM (M.R.).

Distance from Nuneaton.	Station.	Distance from B'ham.	Distance from Nuneaton.	Station.	Distance from B'ham.
2	Stockingford.	18	11	Forge Mills.	9
5½	Arley and Fillongley.	14½	12½	Water Orton.	7½
8	Shustoke.	12	13½	Castle Bromwich.	6½
9½	Whitacre.	10½	17½	Saltley.	2½
			20	Birmingham.	

*This is the Warwickshire section of the Midland route from St. Pancras to Birmingham, which leaves the main line*

to the N. at Leicester—*Hinckley* being the last Leicestershire station and *Nuneaton* the first Warwickshire. Fares, London to Birmingham—17/4, 9/5; ret. 33/6. Nuneaton to Birmingham—2/8, 1/8; ret. 5/4.

[For Nuneaton see Sect. III.]

2m. STOCKINGFORD. 2m. r. is *Arbury*, seat of the ancient Warwickshire family of Newdigate since the 17th cent.: Sir R. Newdigate, founder of the 'Newdigate' at Oxford, being one. The house occupies the site of a monastery founded by Ralph de Sudley, *temp.* Henry II., which on the Dissolution came to the Brandons of Astley, Chief Justice Anderson subsequently buying it and using the materials of the convent to build his house. The present building took form in the last century, on the basis of the old, but the stables by *Inigo Jones*, with a porch by *Wren*, remain untouched. The interior is a fine one; the chief apartments are stored with pictures and art treasures of all kinds, with some carving by *Grinling Gibbons*. The park is charming and richly timbered. South Farm here was the birth-place of George Eliot, whose father was agent for the Arbury estate. Arbury is 3m. from Nuneaton.

5½m. ARLEY and FILLONGLEY. Arley is 1m. N.E. of the station; Fillongley 1½m. S. Arley ch. has an embattled tower and a mon. of Jacobean date to Jane Andrew. To the N. 1½m. is *Ansley*, with an E.Nor. ch. and remains of a hermitage. The country had great natural beauty, but has been marred by the development of coal and iron pits. Nevertheless, it is a charming walk across Bentley Park to Merevale and so to Atherstone. A detour of 1m. r. will include *Hartshill*, placed at the end of a plateau commanding a finely-wooded foreground, with a distant hill-range sweeping from Weedon round into Derbyshire; 45 chs. are visible. The ch. is modern. There are traces of the Nor. castle or fortified residence built 1125 by Hugh Hadreshull. The old hall forms part of some farm buildings, but a portion of the chapel remains; and the boundary walls are pierced with eyelets for cross-bows. There is an ancient house in the village called The Chapel, probably connected with the abbey at Merevale or the priory of Nuneaton. Hartshill is a busy place; cotton-weaving is carried on, and in the neighbourhood are the Hartshill millstone-grit quarries, celebrated for their excellent road metal. There are

tumuli between this and Oldbury, and traces of an encampment close to the modern mansion of Oldbury Hall. The nuns of Polesworth had a chapel near. Hartshill claims to be the birthplace of Michael Drayton, 1563, author of the *Polyolbion*.

At *Fillongley* there are still a few remains of the petty fortalice which formed the cradle of the house of Hastings. The ch., mainly E.Eng., has features of interest, and there are remains of an old ch.-yard cross. Something more than 2m. S. of Fillongley is *Corley*, which stands very high, and has a noteworthy ch. originally Saxon, re-edified in Nor. times and later still in Dec. There are very good Nor. details, and some which may be Saxon, and at least, if Nor., very early. The font appears to be Nor., and there is some quaint carving. But the ch. by no means exhausts the interest of Corley. On *Burrow Hill*, by Corley Rocks, are the mounds of an exceptionally interesting earthwork, covering nearly 9 acres, and apparently of British origin modified and enlarged by the Romans.  $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. N.E. of Fillongley towards Arbury is *Astley*, with a fine ch. It was formerly cruciform, with a spire so conspicuous, that it used to be called 'The Lantern of Arden,' but has now only chancel and nave, with an embattled tower. It contains mons. to an ancestor of the Duke of Suffolk and his wife—also a 15th-cent. brass to a lady. Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk, and father of Lady Jane Grey, resided close by at Astley Castle, a fortified house of the latter part of the 13th cent.; here are still preserved the writing table and chair used by the Duke when in hiding after Wyatt's insurrection in a hollow tree in the park, where his keeper betrayed him. Astley Castle played a small part in the wars of the Commonwealth. It will be seen from all this that few roadside stations open the door to so much worth seeing as Arley: and a charming round may easily be marked out, embracing most if not all here described.

8m. SHUSTOKE. Ch. of Dec. date, contains the altartomb of Sir William Dugdale.

9 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. WHITACRE. (*Junction with M.R. to Hampton (r.) and Tamworth (l.)*.) The village of Nether Whitacre lies 1m. l. The ch. has a N. chapel, and a mon. to C. Jennens, the founder of the Free School. Over Whitacre is nearer Shustoke; ch. Italian and apsidal.

11m. FORGE MILLS. *Lea Marston* village lies l., with

Hams Hall (Lord Norton). *Coleshill* is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. to S. with a nearer station on the branch to Hampton-in-Arden [Sect. VI].

$12\frac{1}{2}$  m. WATER ORTON. (*Junction with branch to Sutton Coldfield and Walsall.*) The bridge over the Tame was built by Vesey, Bp. of Exeter, *temp.* Henry VIII. The ch. is modern, of E.Eng. style, with a good spire; the old building is still used for burials.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. l. is *Curdworth* (ch. Nor.), formerly the seat of the Ardens, and scene of a passage of arms between the Royalists, under Sir Robert Willis, and the Roundheads, who were routed. Further N. is *Wishaw*, the ch. of which contains mons. to the Hacket family, 17th cent.

$13\frac{1}{2}$  m. CASTLE BROMWICH (the name at once suggests the contiguity of Birmingham) is a place of great antiquity pleasantly seated on high ground commanding the valleys of the Tame and Cole. Save in its site, the Castle Hill, the fortalice exists now but in name. *Castle Bromwich Hall* (Lord Newport) is Elizabethan with formal Dutch gardens. *Kingshurst* and *Sheldon* are moated granges, the former 3 m. S.E.

$17\frac{1}{2}$  m. SALTLEY, a Birmingham suburb.

20 m. BIRMINGHAM [Sect. V].

## RAILWAY EXCURSION.

### IV.—KING'S SUTTON TO BIRMINGHAM (G.W.R.).

Distance from Copredy.	Station.	Distance from B'ham.	Distance from Copredy.	Station.	Distance from B'ham.
4	Fenny Compton.	34	$28\frac{1}{2}$	Knowle.	$9\frac{1}{2}$
$8\frac{1}{2}$	Harbury.	$29\frac{1}{2}$	32	Solihull.	6
$15\frac{1}{2}$	Leamington.	$22\frac{1}{2}$	$33\frac{1}{2}$	Olton.	$4\frac{1}{2}$
$17\frac{1}{2}$	Warwick.	$20\frac{1}{2}$	35	Acock's Green.	3
22	Hatton.	16	38	Birmingham.	
26	Kingswood.	12			

*This is a portion of the G.W.R. main line to Manchester and Liverpool from London. (Fares: London to Leamington— $15/3$ ,  $11/8$ ,  $8/1\frac{1}{2}$ ; ret.  $28/3$ ,  $21/9$ : London to Birmingham— $17/4$ ,  $13/6$ ,  $9/5$ ; ret.  $33/6$ ,  $25/$ . King's Sutton, Banbury, and Copredy are in Oxford, but they claim notice here since the G.W.R. line which gives access to the southern corners of Warwickshire runs from King's Sutton by Chipping Norton to Evesham; and Banbury is connected with the L.N.W.*

*system viâ Blisworth, and viâ Bletchley. We take our distances from Copredy (90m. from London), the first station which serves Warwickshire, but which itself is 2m. on the Oxford side of the border.*

The line enters Warwick 92m., between the villages of Claydon (r.) and Farnborough (l.), the ch. of which was restored by the late *Sir G. G. Scott*. At 3m. the line crosses the East and West Junction line from Broom Junction to Stratford-on-Avon, Kineton, Fenny Compton and Blisworth [Sect. X.].

4m. FENNY COMPTON. Village 1m. l. The ch. once belonged to the Priory of Kenilworth, and consists of chancel, nave and aisles, N. porch and tower, with a low spire. The N. door bears traces, in the shape of bullet marks, of the fighting in this neighbourhood, Edgehill being only some 5m. S.W. There are a piscina and an aumbrey in the N. aisle, with remains of the rood loft; also a brass to R. Willis, 1597, and mons. to the Somerville family. The communion rails are of Laudian style and age. 1½m. r. on high ground, is *Wormleighton*, where Sir J. Spencer built a large mansion in the time of Henry VIII. One of the Spencers married Lady Sydney (the 'Sacharissa' of the poet Waller), and fell at the battle of Newbury. The house (in which Prince Rupert slept the night before Edgehill) was partially burnt by the Royalists, to prevent the other side garrisoning it. It still possesses a star chamber, tower, and hall. The ch. has several interesting features, with Trans. Nor. work, and some ancient pavement. N. of the village is Wormleighton Hill, round which the Oxford Canal winds to such an extent that it is almost converted into an island. The line soon enters the valley of the Itchen, passing 8m. l. the village of Bishops Itchington.

*Sulgrave* in Northamptonshire, 10½m. from Fenny Compton, is the original seat of the Washington family from whom George Washington descended. Their manor-house still exists and there are mons. in the ch.

8½m. HARBURY, alias 'Hungry Harbury' (Warwick folk are rather fond of these nicknames) has a good E.Eng. ch. with 17th-cent. brasses.

This is the station for *Southam*, 3m. N.E., a little market town (Hotels: *Craven Arms, Bull*) situated in a wooded district on a stream that flows into the Itchen. The ch., conspicuous from its broach spire, 126 ft. in

height, is mainly Dec. with a fine Perp. nave roof. The house in which Charles I. slept before Edgehill is still in existence near the ch. Southam contains an eye and ear infirmary, founded by a surgeon named Smith; also a R. C. convent and orphanage. There are mineral springs of some efficacy W. of the town. Several villages may well be visited from Southam. 1½m. N. is *Stockton*, the ch. of which belonged to the monks of Hertford, and consists of chancel, nave and aisles, and tower of the 14th cent. In the village is a huge boulder, weighing some 6 tons, found in one of the Lias lime quarries in the neighbourhood, of which there are several. Lime and cement-making is the staple trade here and at Southam. 3m. E. is *Napton*, placed at the foot of Napton Hill, a conspicuous feature in the landscape, the spires of Coventry being visible in the distance. The ch. is E. Eng. Near this is an extensive reservoir and a junction between the Oxford and the Napton and Warwick Canals. Further E., 2 or 3m., are the villages of *Lower* and *Upper Shuckburgh*, and close to the latter is Shuckburgh Park, which has been held by the family since Henry VI.'s time. Between Shuckburgh and Rugby is *Willoughby* (7m. from Rugby), the ch. of which has a monument to Dr. Clark, President of Magdalen College, Oxford, 1672. *Grandborough* ch., 2m. W., on the Leam, has a good Dec. doorway, with singular mouldings. 4m. S. of Napton is *Priors Hardwick* ch., which belonged to the monks of Coventry. It contains a sedile for the priest, and below it one double the size for deacon and subdeacon, both under recessed arched canopies.

3m. W. of Harbury is *Chesterton*, a spot of varied interest. There is a good ch., mainly Perp. with Dec. features, and still earlier remains, with some exceptionally interesting details. Among the Peyto mons. here is a notably fine high tomb. The Peytos built a manor-house from designs by *Inigo Jones*, which was pulled down in 1812, by Lord de Broke. Near the village is a windmill, on six circular arches, built by Sir E. Peyto, also designed by *Inigo Jones*. Chesterton was a hiding-place of Lord Cobham, to whom, in Henry VI.'s reign, the rector, one of the Lacys, gave shelter. Near the windmill is the earthwork to which Chesterton owes the first two syllables of its name. It lies directly on the Fosseway, which passes through it; and is of considerable size,

occupying altogether 14 acres. It is irregularly quadrangular in form, and has yielded Roman coins and pottery, so that its assignment is unmistakable.

Leaving Harbury there is some very heavy cutting; at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. the Fosseway is crossed, and the next stopping place is

15 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. LEAMINGTON (Pop. 26,930; hotels, *Regent, Clarendon, Manor House, Crown, Bath, Angel, Great Western, Euston, Stoneleigh Arms, Washington, Temperance*; many private boarding-houses, and dining and refreshment rooms), also connected with the L. and N.W. system viâ Rugby and viâ Coventry. Tram-cars join Leamington and Warwick. Cab fares for one or two persons, not exceeding 1m. 1s.; for more than two persons 1s. 6d., and for each succeeding  $\frac{1}{2}$ m. or part thereof 6d. By time 2s. 6d. for the first hour or part of an hour; every additional  $\frac{1}{2}$ h., 1s.

Leamington Priors, so called to distinguish it from the village of Leamington Hastings, was early known as Lamintone, and belonged to Geoffrey de Clinton, founder of Kenilworth Castle and Priory. Being seized by the Crown in 1563, it was given to the Earls of Warwick, and subsequently to those of Aylesford, with whom the manorial rights now rest. Such is the brief summary of its early history; for Leamington is essentially of modern growth, and probably, from its neighbourhood to the county capital, would never have been more than a village, but for the discovery of its mineral waters a century ago (or rather their utilisation, as the waters themselves had been mentioned long before by Camden). The good reputation of these waters brought visitors to Leamington; and after royalty had patronised it, in the person of Her Majesty the Queen, it became a favourite watering-place as the Royal Leamington Spa. Within late years it has also developed into a fashionable place of residence, from the attractions of a mild though somewhat relaxing climate, a charming country, pleasant society, excellent educational advantages, and a capital hunting neighbourhood. The result has been that Leamington has spread its wings out to absorb the villages around, and practically to join Warwick, while the population has risen from 543 in 1811, to 19,248 in 1861, 22,723 in 1871, 25,896 in 1881, and 26,930 in 1891. The town lies chiefly on the N. bank of the Leam, sheltered



by rising ground on all sides. Its great characteristic is the extent to which planting and landscape gardening have been carried through streets and squares, giving a perennial appearance of fresh and verdant beauty. While itself possessing the establishments and attractions of a spirited inland watering-place, the close proximity of Warwick, with its deeply-interesting mediævalism, gives an additional charm. The stranger will have no difficulty in making out his way, as roads, avenues, streets, and squares are laid out with considerable regularity, while they do not offend the eye by garishness or monotony.

As we have said, Camden mentions the 'Old Well,' near All Saints ch., and this was supposed to be 'good' for hydrophobia. The *waters* were, however, first brought into public notice by William Abbots, who in the words of his tombstone 'founded the celebrated spa water baths' in 1786. The old well was first provided with a shelter by the Earl of Aylesford in 1803; and ten years later what are now the Royal Pump Rooms and Baths were erected in connection with a spring discovered in 1808. They became the property of the Local Board of Health in 1867, passed to the newly created municipal corporation in 1875, and ten years later assumed their present form. There is a capital colonnade on the exterior; and the baths are arranged in the best style and give the fullest accommodation for the treatment of all forms of disease to which the waters are applicable. These include phthisical and gouty complaints. The water of the old spring is stronger in sulphates than that of the Pump Room, which is noteworthy for its content of chloride of calcium. As saline waters those of Leamington are undoubtedly as valuable as any in England. The season runs from late spring to autumn. Extending from the Pump Room along the bank of the Leam are very pleasant gardens; but the chief attractions of Leamington in this kind are the *Jephson Gardens*, on the other side of the Parade. These cover some twenty acres, also bounded by the Leam, and are beautifully laid out and planted. They take name from Dr. Jephson, whose successful practice as a physician brought Leamington into high repute, and whose statue (by *Hollins*) is enshrined in a Corinthian temple. An obelisk in like manner commemorates the generosity of the late Mr. Edward Willes, by whom the land was given. The

gardens are finely wooded and include tennis and archery grounds, a lake, maze, and swannery, and a memorial fountain to another prominent local medical man, Mr. Hitchman.

The oldest part of Leamington lies close to the station, and contains the fine parish ch. of *All Saints*, a cruciform building (Dec. and Perp.), with a leaning to Continental types. It consists of nave with aisles and clerestory, transepts with aisles, an apsidal chancel, porch, and a tower with spire. The interior is lavishly adorned with stained glass, the W. window being a particularly fine seven-light example, with transoms; subjects: scenes in the life of the Saviour. The reredos and pulpit are of Caen stone, and there are mons. to Lord Justice Willes and (chancel windows) to the daughters of Archbp. Sutton. The ch. was erected at various dates between 1843 and 1869. The other chs. worth notice are: St. Pauls, in Leicester Street, Holy Trinity, in Beauchamp Square (both cruciform), and St. Marks, New Milverton, by the late *Sir G. G. Scott*, superseding an old chapel known as the Pepper Box. It has a particularly lofty nave, and the kneeling-desks are copied from those in the Beauchamp Chapel, Warwick. The pulpit and choir-stalls are by *Brindley* and *Farmer*.

Another noteworthy place of worship is the R.C. ch. of St. Peter (*Clutton*). Following the incorporation a new town hall was built, with bell tower, in the Renaissance style. It is in High Street, as is the *Warneford Hospital*, founded 1832, and accommodating 120 patients. The Free Library is in Bath Street, the Tennis Court in Bedford Street, and the College in Binswood Avenue. The Leamington Club is on the Parade.

#### EXCURSIONS FROM LEAMINGTON.

One of the claims put forward for Leamington as a residential neighbourhood and a tourist centre, is the remarkable facility it affords for visiting the most notable localities in the shire. And certainly as an excursion starting-point it is not easily surpassed. We indicate some of the chief.

1. To Warwick (*post*) either by rail or tram, the latter more convenient (fare 2d.).
2. To *Lillington*, 1m. on Rugby road, into the parish of

which Leamington extends. The ch. (Nor.) belonged to the Priory of Kenilworth. Nearly 2m. further is *Cubbington* ch., with Nor. details, and a Dec. chancel and nave roof.  $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. is *Weston* ch., with an embattled tower, and an effigy of Sir E. Sanders and wife, 1573. The excursion may be varied by taking an extremely pretty road from Cubbington to Offchurch, passing Offchurch Bury, the beautifully timbered park of the Earl of Aylesford. The ch. is Nor., but originally built by Offa, as the (reputed) burial-place of his son Fremund.

3. To *Whitnash*, 1m. S., where is a pretty ch., with a good deal of stained glass, the side-lights of the porch being treated in this way. Herring-bone masonry is seen in S. porch. In the interior are a mon. to the Greenaway family, and brasses to Benedict Medley and wife, 1504. He was Clerk of the Signet to Henry VII. The stone pulpit was carved by a lady amateur, Miss Bonham. Whitnash is one of the pleasantest of Warwick villages.

4. To Kenilworth and Stoneleigh [Sect. VIII.].

5. To Coventry [Sect. II.].

6. To Stratford-on-Avon [Sect. IX.].

$17\frac{1}{2}$ m. WARWICK, the venerable capital of the county (Pop. 11,905; hotels, *Warwick Arms*, *Bowling Green*, *Woolpack*; various refreshment houses), is an old-world town, all the more striking from its contrast with the lively modern neighbour, to which it is linked in the firm bonds of parliamentary representation. Few towns are more effective in their aspect of antiquity, or more closely connected with the national history. The walls have disappeared but the E. and W. *gates* remain, the claims of modern traffic being provided for by carrying the roadway by their sides. Above the gates are the chapels respectively of St. Peter and St. James. Warwick Castle ranks second to no yet inhabited fortalice in the land; the Leicester Hospital is almost unique in its illustration of half-timbered work; the Beauchamp chapel is the finest of its kind in the provinces. And yet in 1694 the town was almost annihilated by fire. The effects of this are unpleasantly seen in the tasteless fashion in which Sir W. Wilson rebuilt the ruined portions of the noble cruciform ch. of *St. Mary*, which crowns the high ground in the centre of the town, and which is  $180\frac{1}{2}$  ft. long by  $66\frac{1}{2}$  ft. wide, the total height of the tower being 174 ft. The parts

rebuilt were the nave, aisles, transepts, and W. tower, and exhibit a curious instance of the retention of the pointed arch in doorways, windows, and arcades, coupled with semi-classic details. The pointed arches of the tower are intermixed with semicircular covered niches. The sections of the pier arches in the nave resemble many 16th cent. The roof is divided by ribs into cellular compartments to resemble groining. The windows are of large size, but the tracery, unique of its kind, is in miserable taste, the head of each window being filled with a huge light, in form resembling a horse-collar (*Bloxam*). The E. window, E. Perp., is six-light, with transoms, and small stone images of saints with their symbols up the jambs and principal mullions. Fortunately the glory of the ch., the famous *Beauchamp chapel*, was uninjured. It was built as a mortuary under the will of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, 1443-1464, at a cost regarded as equivalent to £40,000 in modern money. As an example of the highest decorated phase of the Perp. style in its best period, the chapel has no superior; and that whether we regard the general design, the panelling, groining, carving, statuary or fenestration. The tabernacle work too is exceedingly delicate, and the glass, though very imperfect, suffices amply to show how rich the effect originally was. Adjoining is an oratory or chantry chapel, remarkable for the intricate fan tracery of the roof. In truth there is no single detail that is not worthy of the closest observation and study. Fitting occupant of such a magnificent shrine is the high tomb of its founder, Richard Beauchamp, whose effigy in gilt-brass, larger than life and in full armour, rests on a bed of Purbeck marble. Niches round the tomb contain gilt metal figures of members and connections of the Beauchamp family, in mourning habits. Yet other niches hold like figures of angels. The inscription is very long and very quaint. It was this earl who negotiated the treaty of marriage between Henry V. and Catherine, daughter of Charles VI. of France, and he died at Rouen Lieut.-Gen. and Governor of France and Normandy. Near this tomb is that of Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick, brother of him of Kenilworth, the favourite of Elizabeth, d. 1589. It is surmounted by his effigy, in gilt and embossed armour, and the sides bear coats of arms. By the altar is the tomb and effigy of Lord Dudley's infant son, Lord Denbigh, his feet resting

on a chained bear. On the N. wall is the mon. of Dudley, Earl of Leycester, with coloured effigies of himself and Lettice, his (then) Countess, under a canopy, d. 1588. He it was who founded, in 1585, the Leycester Hospital (*post*). This mon. is a very poor affair, though by no means wanting in pretence, when compared with its neighbours.

There are some fine mons. in the ch., and especially the altar-tomb of the first Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and Catherine, his countess, d. 1370. He is habited in armour, his gauntleted left hand grasping his sword, his right clasped in his wife's hand, and his feet resting upon a bear. On the sides of the tomb are 36 small statues representing males and females alternately, but no inscriptions. In the chapterhouse N. of the choir is the tomb of Sir Fulke Greville, Lord Brooke, to whom James I. gave Warwick Castle. He was one of the most accomplished men of the day, a friend of Sir Philip Sydney, and in 1628 was assassinated by his servant. The other mons. most worthy of notice are brass effigies to the second Thomas Beauchamp and his wife, the altar-tomb to which the effigies belonged having been destroyed in the fire; also a brass tablet to Thomas Oken (and Joan his wife), a wealthy mercer and a great benefactor to the town. More persons of note were buried here, but their mons. were destroyed, probably during the Civil War, when Col. Purefoy, Puritan M.P. for Warwick, made himself extremely obnoxious for his iconoclastic proceedings. Of modern memorials, special note should be taken of the bust of Walter Savage Landor, born at Warwick in 1775.

Next to the ch. the most interesting feature of Warwick town is the *Leycester Hospital*, originally connected with the guilds of the Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin, and St. George the Martyr. It stands at the top of the hill, at the end of High Street, overlooking the Stratford road, a most perfect example of half-timbered building. Connected with it is the gateway of St. James, beneath and to the side of which passes the roadway, cut out of the rock. Above is the chapel of the hospital, with a fine E. five-light window of stained glass, and at the W. end rises a venerable tower built by Thos. Beauchamp in Richard II.'s reign. This chapel was restored by the late Sir G. G. Scott. The hospital buildings on the r. consist

of a quadrangle, having N. the master's lodge, E. the kitchen, S. and W. rooms for the brethren. Here was formerly a fine hall, in which James I. was entertained by Sir Fulke Greville. On the gable in front are the armorial bearings of the Dudleys, with the motto, 'Droit et Loyal.' The hospital was founded by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, for a master and 12 brethren, each of whom has separate apartments and £80 a year. T. Cartwright was the first master. Each brother has to appear habited in the blue dress of the order, prescribed by the founder—a blue gown, with the silver badge of the Bear and Ragged Staff on the left sleeve. The badges are the identical ones worn by the first possessors, whose names are engraved on the back, together with the date 1571. The Priory of *St. Sepulchre*, close to the station, founded in 12th cent. by Henry de Newburgh, Earl of Warwick, is now represented by a mediæval dwelling-house, with a carved oak staircase, hall, and dining-room.

*St. Johns Hospital*, Smith Street, was originally founded by William de Newburgh, Earl of Warwick, for the succour of the stranger and the infirm. The site is now occupied by an imposing gabled house of Jacobean style, completed early in the reign of Charles I.

The only other feature of the town that calls for notice is the *Museum*, which contains good local ornithological and palæontological collections, with some interesting antiquities.

And now we come to *Warwick Castle*, that stately mansion overlooking the Avon, which dates its origin to Æðelfleda, the gallant daughter of Ælfred, and which has been in turn held by some of the strongest and the noblest of English families. There is really nothing to show that the Romans had anything to do with Warwick, or that it was a Keltic stronghold. It enters the course of Saxon history, however, for there must have been some special reason why in the middle of the 6th cent. St. Dubritius made the ch. of All Saints, within the castle cincture, the seat of his See. Of all the works of these days, naught has continued save Æðelfleda's mound, which 'remains a monument of the wisdom and energy of the mighty daughter of Ælfred, while the keep of William has so utterly vanished that its very site can only now be guessed at' (*Freeman*). Although there is thus nothing to show what was the original construc-

tion of the castle, it is probable there was a shell keep on the summit of the mound, and a stockaded enclosure or barbican where the inner court now is. From its lofty position and the fact that the river defends it on the E., it has been always a fortress of very great strength. Few preserved their individuality so completely during the troublous events of the Middle Ages. The castle played its part in the wars of Stephen and Matilda, when Gundreda, its countess, widow of Roger de Newburgh, ejected Stephen's garrison, and handed it over to Henry. Held for the King by its lord in the Barons' wars, while Kenilworth was the headquarters of the Montfortian party, it was captured by the governor of the latter place in 1264 and 'slighted,' though not so greatly as to prevent Henry III. from making it his headquarters at the siege of Kenilworth two years later, or Guy de Beauchamp from converting it into the prison of Gaveston in 1312. For a while Hugh le Despenser, another royal favourite, had it in keeping, and during his tenure entertained his royal master, Edward III. Then the Beauchamps came back again, and they were the chief builders of the fortalice as we see it now. Richard de Beauchamp had a visit from Henry V. ; and Richard Neville, *the* Earl of Warwick, kingmaker, and 'last of the Barons,' who held the castle in right of his wife Anne, the Beauchamp heiress, made it for a while the prison of Edward IV. George, Duke of Clarence, succeeded his father-in-law, and here died his wife Isabel ; his brother, Richard III., paid two visits in 1483 and 1484. Under Edward VI. the castle passed to the rule of the Dudleys, and Ambrose Dudley, the 'good earl' of Leicester, twice entertained Elizabeth. Once more it reverted to the Crown on the death of Ambrose, and was next granted to the ancestor of the present family, Sir Fulke Greville, who laid out very considerable sums upon its restoration and extension, and had several calls from the 'Royal Solomon.' Lord Brooke, the next Greville holder, took sides with the Parliament in the Civil War, and the castle underwent its most trying time. 'News of the defeat at Coventry and Southam had spread. Lord Brooke had gone, leaving Warwick Castle defended by Sir Edward Peyto, and Lord Northampton, having heard of his departure, marched against it with the ordnance just taken at Banbury. Sir Edward refused to surrender, though twice

summoned. The attack commenced from the town side by Lord Compton, while his father and Lord Dunsmure threw up a battery in the park. Sir Edward ordered all to leave the town, and a red flag floated out from Guy's Tower. Two days' siege found the massive walls of the castle proof against attack. On the third day, Lord Compton placed a battery on the tower of St. Mary's ch., whence, however, he was dislodged by the fire from the castle, which brought down the pinnacles. The besiegers next formed the hope of starving the garrison out, and sat down with that intention: and then it was that Sir Edward Peyto hoisted the quaint device of a Bible and a winding-sheet—as he put his faith in the one, he was not afraid of the other. At last the Cavaliers in despair raised the siege and joined the King's forces.' It was in Warwick Castle that Lord Lindsay died after Edgehill. The earldom of Warwick was originally created by the Conqueror. Few titles have passed through more hands. Starting with De Newburgh it went in succession through heiresses to De Plessetis, Maudit, Beauchamp, Neville, and Plantagenet. Then it lapsed and was revived in the Dudleys, who had Beauchamp blood. Then it ceased and was recreated in the family of Rich (one the well-known friend of Cromwell), but who had no connection with the place. Finally when their line came to an end a fresh creation was made in favour of the Grevilles, who like the Dudleys represent the Beauchamp strain, and thus trace back absolutely to the original holders of the title.

The *castle* is open to visitors on week-days on payment of a shilling (tickets to be obtained at the office opposite the entrance). It is one of the most famous and interesting show-houses in the kingdom, and the liberality of the family in giving access is well supplemented by the admirable arrangements made in the provision of competent guides. In 1871 a great calamity happened by the breaking out of a fire, which did enormous damage and destroyed a great many works of art. Fortunately the chief destruction was in the direction of the private apartments, and the whole has been admirably restored by *Salvin*. On entering the porter's lodge, the visitor passes through a deep-rocky cutting and arrives at the outer court, with a noble line of wall and battlement facing him. On r. is Guy's Tower, on l. Cæsar's Tower,



and in the centre a massive gateway flanked by towers and defended by a portcullis. Close to and behind this is the second gateway, equally strong—and having passed through these, the beautiful inner court is entered. This is of considerable area, the apartments running the whole length of the building on the l. or E. side. Opposite is the mound, the original and most ancient part of the fortress, while on the r. (leading to the gardens) are the Bear Tower (commenced by Richard III.) and Clarence Tower. The rooms shown to the visitor are as follows: The *Great Hall*, a noble apartment looking on to the river, as indeed does the whole of the suite. Amongst other things, it contains many beautiful suits of armour; Guy of Warwick's porridge-pot, in reality an enormous garrison cooking crock; the armour in which Lord Brooke was killed at Lichfield; the helmet, studded with brass, usually worn by Oliver Cromwell; curious weapons of different ages and countries; while at the end of a passage towards the chapel is seen *Vandyke's* celebrated painting of Charles I. on horseback, attended by the Duke of Espernon and Valette. The effect produced by the distance and the arrangement of the light is very striking. The hall is commonly used as a sitting-room by the family, a huge wooden fire burning on the ancient hearth, while hard by is a coffer containing a cart-load or two of logs for replenishing. The state apartments succeed: The *Red Drawing-Room*, with among others the following paintings—Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel, *Rubens*; Marquis de Spinola, *Rubens*; Burgomaster, *Rembrandt*; wife of Snijders, *Vandyke*; Assumption, *Rafaelle*; also some very fine examples of buhl and ebony work, choice Limoges enamels, and an inlaid table which belonged to Marie Antoinette. *Cedar Room*: Charles I., Henrietta Maria, Marquis of Montrose, and others by *Vandyke*; Rich, Earl of Warwick, *Old Stone*; 'beauties' by *Lely*; busts by *Nollekens*, *Bernini*, *Bonelli*, and *Hiram Power*; choice Etruscan ware. *Gilt or Green Drawing-Room*: Strafford, Marquis of Huntley, Prince Rupert and other portraits by *Vandyke*; Lord and Lady Brooke, *Dahl*; Earl of Lindsay, *Janssens*; and one of the finest portraits by *Rubens* in existence, Ignatius Loyola, painted for the Jesuit College at Antwerp; among the many articles of *vertu* chief comes a superb table from the Grimani Palace, Rome, richly inlaid with

precious stones. The *State Bedroom* is fitted with furniture which belonged to Queen Anne, whose portrait by *Kneller* hangs here, and has a fine chimney-piece by *Westmacott*. The *Boudoir* commands probably the finest view along the Avon of all the state apartments; but every window in the range seems to have its peculiar charm. The pictures here include: Henry VIII., *Holbein*; Martin Luther, *Holbein*; Duchess of Cleveland, *Lely*; Saint, *Andrea del Sarto*; Card Players, *Teniers*; St. Jerome, *Rubens*; Anne Boleyn, *Holbein*; Pieta, *L. Caracci*; St. Sebastian, *Vandyke*; Old Woman, *Gerard Dow*; and landscapes by *Salvator Rosa*. The *Armoury Passage* comes next, with a very fine collection of arms of all kinds and ages; and a cast of Oliver Cromwell's face taken after death. There are numerous other pictures in the *Compass Room* and *Chapel Passage*, including several by *Vandyke*; two of St. Paul at Malta, and the artist's mother, by *Rubens*; Napoleon I., by *David*; and examples of *Cranach*, *Vandervelde*, *Murillo*, *Janssens* and others. The chapel has some old glass. The *Great Dining-Room* is chiefly interesting as an example of florid Georgian taste, dating from 1770.

We have here enumerated a mere outline only of the objects of note at Warwick Castle; for all the apartments are crowded with curiosities and antiquities of the highest value, many of them of historical interest. The private apartments, hardly less wealthy, and rich in Shaksperian material, are not shown—neither is Cæsar's Tower, a grand tower built by Thomas de Beauchamp circa 1350. In its dungeon was imprisoned John Smith, a Royalist soldier, 1642-45. From Guy's Tower—built by the second Thomas de Beauchamp circa 1394—the summit of which is reached by 133 steps, there is a noble view of the whole of the castle grounds, the town of Warwick, and a wide extent of country.

The chief attraction in the gardens is the Warwick Vase, which stands on a high pedestal in the conservatory. It was discovered in Adrian's Villa at Tivoli, and brought thence by Sir William Hamilton. It is of the finest white marble, about 6 ft. in diameter, the handles exquisitely sculptured with vine foliage, and the whole vase appropriately adorned with carving. It has been ascribed to the sculptor Lysippus of Sicyon, and dated towards the end of the 4th cent. B.C.

## EXCURSION FROM WARWICK.

With slight variation the excursion notes for Leamington will equally serve for Warwick; but there is an important exception. This is the excursion to *Guy's Cliff*, 1½ m. along the course of the Avon towards Kenilworth, an exceedingly beautiful site. Of course it is easily taken from Leamington, but it is specially Warwickian property. As the house and grounds are only to be seen in the absence of the family it is well to make enquiries in Warwick before starting. Guy Earl of Warwick—need it be said?—is a purely mythical personage; but his legend as set forth by John Rous, priest of the chapel founded here by Richard Beauchamp, is that Roland, Earl of Warwick, lived here in the time of Ælfred, and had a daughter named Phelice, with whom Guy, son of Siward of Wallingford, fell in love, but who, though really reciprocating his affection, seemed outwardly hard-hearted. To ingratiate himself with his mistress Guy wandered forth in quest of adventures, which were not slow in presenting themselves, and proved a very paladin in the rescue of the distressed. Returning to England, his chief feats were his encounter with the Dun Cow on Dunsmore Heath, an enormous animal with a vicious taste for toothsome young virgins; and his great duel with Colbrand, the giant champion of the Danes, who were besieging Winchester, and whom Guy, by this single conquest, compelled to retrace their steps homewards. Tired of these adventures, he repaired to Guy's Cliff, where he found a holy man occupying a cell cut out of the rock; and here he lived, going daily to receive a dole at the castle gate from the hands of the Countess of Warwick, who, in consequence of his disguise and altered features, did not recognise him. That Guy was a giant was held to be proved by his 'porridge pot;' and the existence of the Dun Cow was made equally sure by the existence of sundry of its ribs, which modern comparative anatomy has ruthlessly assigned to a whale. There is however, an ancient cave hewn in the sandstone at Guy's Cliff, known as Guy's Cave and which was occupied in Saxon times, since it contains a Saxon inscription in 10th cent. characters, which being translated reads 'Cast out, thou Christ, from thy servant (*cnecht*) this weight, Guhthi.' And Guhthi was no doubt the original Guy,

and his name probably passed into its present form through an early name of the locality—Gibbeclyve. Whether Dugdale was right in considering that Dubritius had an oratory here, no one can now say; but the 15th cent. chantry chapel still exists, with the chambers of the chantry priest; and it contains a gigantic statue of the redoubted Guy in armour, evidently carved long before the building, probably when the legend first became popular. The house at Guy's Cliff is a modern mansion erected by the Greatheads, who also laid out the lovely grounds and from whom the property passed to the Percys. There are a number of fine pictures in the house, and some by Mr. Bertie Greathead. A little beyond Guy's Cliff, l., is *Blacklow Hill*, where Edward II.'s favourite, Piers Gaveston, had his head struck off by the Earl of Warwick, whom, in his days of insolence, he had called 'the black dog' of Arden. The spot is marked by Gaveston's Cross. The excursion may be prolonged to Kenilworth.

Leaving Warwick the railway abruptly quits the valley of the Avon and runs due W. for a short distance, gradually bearing N.W. l. is the village of *Budbrook*. The ch. has chancel, nave and aisles of the 13th cent. In the neighbourhood is *Grove Park* (Lord Dormer), a fine old place, formerly surrounded by a moat. It was one of the estates given by Queen Elizabeth to her favourite Dudley.

22m. HATTON (*Junction with branch to Bearley (for Alcester), Stratford-on-Avon, and Honeybourne*). The village of Hatton is on high ground 1m. r. The ch. has a 15th cent. tower, with good Perp. windows and an unusual quantity of stained glass. This was chiefly given by Dr. Samuel Parr, a former vicar, who had a passion for bells, a whole peal of which he likewise presented. To get as much sound out of them as possible, he had extra openings made in the belfry.  $\frac{3}{4}$ m. N. is *Haseley ch.*, which also has some interesting bells, one with a Lombardic inscription to the Virgin. The W. window has some old stained glass—subject, the Annunciation—and there is a high tomb with interesting brass figures to Clement Throckmorton and members of his family. Slight remains of the old manor house exist, the modern house being Elizabethan.

24m. r. is *Rowington* ch., with exceedingly narrow aisles. During its restoration (*Bodley and Garner*) several traces of fresco wall-painting were revealed, but with the exception of one representing Adam and Eve, they were almost undistinguishable. The nave is lofty and dignified. There is an interesting stone pulpit and bench. The stained glass is by *Burlinson* and *Grylls*. The readiest access is from the next station.

26m. **KINGSWOOD**, close to which are traces at *Harborough Banks* of a camp enclosing about 26 acres. 1½m. l. is the interesting ch. of *Lapworth*. Further N. is *Packwood* ch. (approachable only by footpaths) of Dec. and Perp. dates, which has a steeple built in the reign of Henry VII. by Nicholas Brome, and a south porch of timber. The interior contains glass with plain pattern glazing of the 14th cent. Close by is an old moated farmhouse, formerly seat of the Featherstones. *Packwood Hall* is in part Queen Anne, and in the grounds is a labyrinth of yews of great age. 1½m. r. of Kingswood is *Baddesley Clinton* ch., the chancel rebuilt in Debased style 1634. The situation of the massive tower is very peculiar, dividing the nave in two portions of unequal breadth. This tower was undoubtedly built by N. Brome—according to Dugdale in expiation for killing the parish priest, whom he found 'choking his wife under the chin.' There is some fine old glass. *Baddesley Hall* is the old moated residence of the Ferrers, who, in the 17th cent., were somewhat famous in literature, Henry Ferrers being an antiquary and poet, d. 1638, and Edward Ferrers a dramatist, d. 1654. The Hay Wood, an extensive woodland close to the village, abounds with lilies of the valley.

1½m. further E. (approached from the Birmingham road by a beautiful avenue) is the interesting ch. and mansion of *Wroxhall*—occupying the site of the Priory, founded 1141 by Hugh de Hatton. One of the last of the prioresses was Isabella Shakspeare. This is the story of the foundation: Hugh de Hatton praying for deliverance from his prison in the Holy Land, St. Leonard, patron saint of the parish ch., appeared to him: and on his vowing to found a Benedictine house, he was miraculously removed, fetters and all, and deposited in a wood at Wroxhall. A shepherd, meeting with him, was much alarmed, but was persuaded to take a message to Sir Hugh's wife, who would not believe in the identity of

her husband until persuaded by the sight of his ring, which had been broken in half before he left England. Sir Hugh fulfilled his promise, and the Priory was built on the spot to which the saint had carried him. At the Dissolution it was given to the Burgoynes, and came by purchase to Sir Christopher Wren, who occasionally resided here. Incorporated with the house are remains of conventual buildings, chapter-house and refectory, which form the offices. The ch. consists of chancel and nave without any intervening chancel arch. The E. window is Perp., five-light, and those on the N. side are Dec. At the W. end is a brick tower. A portion of the old glass remains, partially restored by *Holland*; and the carving of the seats is worth notice. There are mons. to Burgoynes and Wrens. The great architect himself does not appear to have done much in the way of building, though the garden walls are said to be his.

28½m. KNOWLE. Knowle ch. (1½m. N.E.) is a remarkably fine example of Perp., consisting of chancel, clerestoried nave, with aisles, chantry, and W. tower. It was built in Richard II.'s reign by Walter Cooke, Canon of Lincoln, who founded also a guild and a chantry. The chancel and nave are of the same length, but the division externally is shown by the difference in the level of the parapet. The roof is depressed, and quite hidden by the parapet. The chancel windows (three-light at the sides, E. window six-light) are typical examples. The Elizabethan communion table is worth notice, and so is the rood screen. *Grimshaw Hall* is an exceptionally good half timbered edifice, near the village. 2m. further E. is *Temple Balsall* ch., Dec., which was the property of the Knights Templars, and afterwards of the Hospitallers. Like Wroxhall, the chancel, which is of considerable length, and nave are continuous, without any chancel arch. The W. window is a fine wheel of twelve compartments surmounting five lights, and the principal E. window is of five lights also. The piscina and sedilia are very elegant. Near the ch. are the remains of the old refectory of the knights. The manor was given by Elizabeth to Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, and his granddaughter left it to found a hospital for women, which stands close by the ch. Temple Balsall is equidistant—3m.—between Knowle and the L. and N.W. station of Berkswell.

32m. SOLIHULL (Hotel: *George*) a pleasant country town, has of late become a rather favourite residence with Birmingham business men, who have spread over the country for miles, driving out the old county families. The ch. is cruciform, conspicuous for a long distance for its spire. A chantry was founded here in 1301 by William de Odingsells, after whom the manor became vested in the Berminghams, one of whom sold it to a Bishop of Ely for 100 marks of silver. The ch. consists of chancel, nave, aisles, transepts, central tower of three stages, and a spire of later date. The nave and S. aisle are Late Perp., the N. aisle much earlier, and the transepts about the middle of the 14th cent. Notice in the N. aisle the wrought-iron gates of the porch. There is no clerestory, and the nave arches are unusually lofty, which, together with the great length of the ch., gives an impression of dignity. At the E. end of the N. aisle—St. Anthony Chapel—are traces of a reredos and piscina; and in the S. aisle is a stone retable, with panelling which once contained effigies of the Apostles. The S. transept was formerly the chapel of St. Mary, and the N., which has some 15th cent. stained glass, that of St. Katherine. The lower lights of the E. window are modern, but in the tracery are remains of the coloured centres of the old grisaille. On the N. side of the altar are some vestiges of an Easter sepulchre. The chancel is a beautiful example of E. Dec.; and on the N. is a chapel of two storeys, the lower of which, with a groined roof, was probably a chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, the upper, now the vestry, Odingsell's chantry of St. Alphege. This ch. contains brasses to William Hyll, his two wives and eighteen children (16th cent.), a monument to William Hawes (17th cent.), with long acrostic on his name, also to the Holbeckes, the Palmers of Olton, etc. A former rector of Solihull was John Feckenham, Dean of St. Pauls and Abbot of Westminster 1585, the last mitred abbot in England. There is a good Grammar School here, founded *temp.* Richard II., of which Dr. Johnson once tried in vain to be master. The neighbourhood of Solihull is rich in old houses, such as Ravenshaw, Berry Hall, Wharley Hall, Henwood Hall, all lying from 2 to 4m. E. in the direction of Hampton-in-Arden; while 1m. S., close to the railway, is *Hillfield Hall*, one of the moated Elizabethan manors characteristic of this portion

of the country. The projecting porch was probably made to complete the ground-plan with the letter E, after the fashion of the times.

33½m. OLTON, where are traces of the old castle of the Limesies.

35m. ACOCKS GREEN. A considerable residential population has grown up here, and the pleasant pastoral scenery now gives place to manufacturing surroundings, and the rail passes through the uninviting districts of Bordesley and Deritend to

38m. BIRMINGHAM.

#### V.—BIRMINGHAM.

*Fares from London : 17s. 4d., 13s. 6d., 9s. 5d. ; ret. 33/6, 25/-. There are two main central stations—New Street for the L.N.W. and M.R. ; and Snow Hill for the G.W.R. ; and several district and suburban stations, lines branching from the city in ten different directions. Cab fares : Four persons any distance not exceeding 1m., 1s. ; each succeeding ½m. or part thereof, 6d. Ditto two persons not exceeding 1½m., 1s. ; each succeeding ½m. or part thereof, 4d. Beyond 3m. radius, 1s. per m. or part thereof. An excellent system of tramways. Hotel accommodation, etc., very extensive and good, including : Queens, Great Western, Hen and Chickens, Grand, Cobden, Midland, Royal, White Horse, Acorn. Many excellent refreshment and dining rooms. Pop. 429,171. The city lies in the extreme corner of Warwickshire, and now includes within its municipal limits suburbs that had grown up in Staffordshire.*

Birmingham, though not the legal capital of the county, holds a far higher position as the industrial centre of the Midlands and the world-metropolis of the hardware trades, its reputation extending to every quarter of the globe, civilized or savage. It is not a tourist haunt, though full of interest, but a typical British manufacturing town, like Manchester, Leeds, or Bradford ; in one respect more so, for, whereas they are the foci of large textile districts, Birmingham contains trades peculiar to itself, scarcely to be found elsewhere. There is no population in Great Britain more active in matters social, educational, and political.

Although the general aspect of Birmingham does not savour of antiquity, it can claim a very respectable



parentage. Seeing that it is situated on the Icknield Road, and very near Watling Street, some antiquaries (and among them Stukeley) considered it the ancient Bremenium. This, however, is mere inaccurate guess, and rests upon little more than the fact that foundations regarded as Roman have been met with, and that iron scorise have been found at Aston, a discovery quite in keeping with the known ability of the Romans in iron working and smelting. The Saxon name of the town according to Dugdale was Brumwycham, the freehold of Uluiuine in the time of the Confessor; and it is a singular instance of the tenacity of orthoepy that in modern days the current form should still be Brummagem. The name in *Domesday* is 'Berningeha.' Both spelling and early history are involved in a good deal of obscurity. There are 100 ways of spelling the name; and the lord of the manor in 1309 gave evidence that his predecessors had a market and levied tolls before the Conquest. The antiquity of the place is thus manifest, and yet it was only in the 14th cent. Birmingham first appeared on the map; about the same date the chapel of St. John at Deritend was erected under the influence of Wycliff's teaching. The lords of the manor, the De Berminghams, resided here in their castle until the time of Henry VIII., when they disappeared, together with their old residence, the only trace of which is the name of Moat Lane.

The history of Birmingham as an industrial town dates from the 16th cent., when both Leland (1538) and Camden (1576) visited it, and described it as the headquarters of the iron trade. The former speaks of the smiths and cutlers, 'the lorimers that make bittes,' and the nailers, artizans attracted by the 'sea cole' from Staffordshire. There seems, however, to be some confusion in this statement, as charcoal smelting was in vogue in Leland's time, David Dudley not having arisen to introduce his invention of smelting iron with pit coal. Camden mentions 'Bremingham, full of inhabitants, and resounding with hammers and anvils, for the most of them are smiths.' Thence until now, Birmingham has steadily progressed in industrial importance; and although individual trades have migrated and some have died out, others have sprung up, and the special character of the town has never altered. Generally speaking it has been singularly free from the ups and downs to which most places were liable in the

Middle Ages, possibly because the inhabitants were too busy to attend to anything but their own work. The battle of Evesham (which, taking place in the next county, was probably considered a local event) was almost the only time in which the Birmingham folk appeared spontaneously in the field, though they figured uncomfortably as defendants against Prince Rupert, who attacked and destroyed great part of the town in revenge for their having taken the Parliamentary side. Apart from such incidents, the career of Birmingham has been one of unexampled prosperity. 'During the 17th and 18th cents. the progress of her manufactures was marvellous. The town seemed to have the power of attracting artisans of every trade and every degree of skill. It awarded almost perfect freedom to all who chose to come—Dissenters and Quakers, and heretics of all sorts, were welcomed and undisturbed as far as their religious observances were concerned. No trades' unions, no trades' guilds, no companies existed, and every man was free to come and go, to found or to follow or to leave a trade, just as he chose. The system of apprenticeship was only partially known, and Birmingham became emphatically the town of free trade, where practically no restrictions, commercial or municipal, were known' (*Timmins*).

Though made a parliamentary constituency in 1832, it did not receive a municipal charter until 1838, the manor bailiffs being the returning officers, and years had again to elapse before the new corporation obtained complete control of the municipality. Since then the authorities have gone ahead. As a shrewd American observer recently said, 'It is a city whose people possess the highest and most varied and thorough educational facilities anywhere within the reach of all classes. It is a city wherein the difficult problem of the disposal of sewage is believed to have more nearly approached solution than elsewhere. It is a city that builds its own street railroads, makes and sells its own gas, collects and sells its water supply, raises and sells a great part of the food of its inhabitants, provides them with a free museum, art-gallery and art-school, gives them swimming and Turkish baths at less than cost, and interests a larger portion of its people in responsibility for and management of its affairs than any city in the United Kingdom, if not in the world. It is above all else a business city run by business men on business principles' (*Ralph*).

Modern Birmingham has entered into three big transactions within the current quarter century. In 1875 and 1876 it bought the local gas works for £553,845. In the former year it bought the local water property for an annuity of £54,491; which is not very far short of a capital value of £1,500,000. And at the same time it carried out the greatest improvement ever effected by a municipality, replacing a congeries of slums by the magnificent thoroughfare of Corporation Street at a cost of £1,600,000. As all the houses in this street are built on seventy-five year leases, and the loan will have been paid off before half that time has elapsed, Birmingham in 1950 or thereabouts will be in all probability the richest corporation in the kingdom. The profits of the water works go in reduction of rates. Within ten years the price of gas had been reduced some 50 per cent., and even then the undertaking yielded a very handsome contribution to the rates.

Birmingham lies close to the centre of England, not far from the banks of the Tame, which rises near King's Norton, and flows outside and E. of the city on its way N. to Tamworth. Two other small streams flow into it—the Rea, which intersects the S.E. portion, and the Hockley Brook, the N. The geological formation is New Red Sandstone, in which artesian wells are sunk, and yield a good supply of water of excellent quality. Partly to this, and partly to the open situation, Birmingham owes an exceptionally good sanitary reputation, particularly when it is remembered that many of the local industries are of a nature decidedly detrimental to health.

New Street, running S.E. to N.W., is not only the geographical meridian of Birmingham, but the centre to which rank and fashion converge, containing numbers of excellent shops, and, at its N.W. end, the chief public buildings. In it (approached by a short and handsome street, Stephenson Place) is the central station of the London and North-Western and Midland Railways, with a long Italian façade. Stephenson Place also contains the Exchange, a fine group of buildings by *Holmes*, in Continental Gothic style. The statue close by is by *Thomas*, to the memory of Thomas Attwood, d. 1856, founder of the Birmingham Political Union. The chief attraction of New Street is the *Grammar School* of King Edward VI., founded from the endowment of the Guild

of the Holy Cross, which has for many years enjoyed a high reputation. The present building was erected 1833, from designs by *Sir C. Barry*, quadrangular in shape, and of Perp. details. The schoolrooms, which, previous to the new scheme, were divided into classical and commercial, are handsome, and in the board-room is a bust of Edward VI. by *Schumacker*. In 1878 the constitution of the old school was changed, and it ceased to be free, while the divisions of commercial and classical were abolished. It now consists of a High or Middle School for boys, with a Lower Middle School for boys and girls, including four elementary schools in other parts of the town. The endowment being in land the funds are considerable, and the income is still increasing. In Paradise Street, near the Town Hall, is the *Queen's College*, founded 1828 by Mr. Sands Cox, which for many of the earliest years of its existence had a troublous time, but now takes high rank. The chapel has an altarpiece in silver by *Flaxman*, the Shield of Faith; also a stained glass window, by *Pemberton*, of Christ Healing the Sick. In the dining hall are portraits of the founder and others, with a painting by *David* of the Return of the Prodigal Son.

Not far distant is the highly successful educational establishment of the Midland Institute; and within a stone's throw the *Mason College* of Science, founded by the late Sir Josiah Mason, and opened 1880, a princely gift to the town in which he spent most of his life, for the purpose of providing a good technical education, and especially in the natural sciences as applied to mining and manufactures. A noble range of red brick buildings, in Edmund Street, at the back of the Town Hall, from designs by *Cousins*, gives every facility for the working of such an institution. The College, which cost £60,000, was opened with an inaugural address from Prof. Huxley. Sir Josiah Mason, to whom Birmingham owes not only this great boon, but the Orphanage at Erdington, was the son of a journeyman carpenter at Kidderminster, who came to Birmingham at 21 years of age, and after trying his hand at several trades, took to gilt toy making, eking out his living by selling teacakes when times were hard. He speedily obtained a name for cleverness in making split rings for gilding, and soon acquired a little business. One day, seeing a steel pen in a shop-window, he bought

it for three shillings and improved upon it, taking it for inspection to Mr. Perry, who had commenced a manufacture of school articles. By him Mason was supplied with capital to make new pens, and the business flourished to such an extent, that in 1876, when it passed to a limited company, the rate of production was from forty to fifty thousand gross a week, or about a million of pens per day. In 1842 Mason joined the firm of Elkington, and riches rolled in to a fabulous extent, the great embarrassment of himself and his wife being to know what to do with them. The good use to which the worthy couple put their money is their best monument.

In a commanding situation, at the junction of several streets, is the *Town Hall*, a very large and somewhat unwieldy classic building, erected 1834 (though not finished until 1850), from designs by *Hanson* and *Welch*. The general features are copied from the Temple of Jupiter Stator at Rome, and consist of rows of detached lofty columns forming an arcade and resting upon a substantial basement. The hall is 150 ft. in length, and will hold 2,500 persons. It contains an organ by *Hill*, for many years, when large organs were less common than they are now, one of the finest of the kingdom, possessing four manuals and 53 sounding stops. Although excelled in size by more recent instruments, it is a very good organ, which no visitor to Birmingham should neglect to hear. This is easy, as free performances are given on one evening in the week. The Birmingham Musical Festivals, held triennially, are celebrated: the *Elijah* was first produced here under the leadership of Mendelssohn himself in 1846. The hall contains his bust. The contiguous block of buildings is that of the *Council House* in Ann Street, a very handsome range of Corinthian architecture, built from designs by *Thomason*, 1874, in which the Corporation and Municipal and Borough officials have their headquarters. The elevations are striking, decorated with much ornamental sculpture, the central group representing Britannia reviewing Birmingham manufactures.

Most of the local *statues* are near the Town Hall, and include the Prince Consort (*Foley*, whose plaster models of the statues of Goldsmith and Burke are in the Council House); Sir Robert Peel, a fine bronze statue (*Hollins*) on a pedestal of polished granite; Watt, the pioneer of

steam power (*Munro*), his hand resting upon the cylinder of an engine; Priestley (*Williamson*), the chemist and discoverer of oxygen, who was driven from Birmingham in 1791 by the mob, after his house was sacked and his chemical apparatus destroyed; George Dawson, d. 1876, a well-known minister and lecturer (*Woolner*). There is also a memorial fountain in honour of Mr. Chamberlain, M.P., with a medallion (*Woolner*). The other statues are those of Attwood; and of Nelson in bronze (*Westmacott*). This is placed in front of St. Martins ch. in the Bull-ring, which lies to the S. of New Street, at its eastern end. At the Five Ways is a monument to Sturge, the philanthropist and Apostle of Peace (*Thomas*).

The *Birmingham Library, Museum, and Art Galleries* are among the city's proudest possessions, and have the advantage of a special Act for their support. Opened in 1866, extended two years later by the addition of the Shakspeare library, the central building was burnt in 1879, and with it the Central and Shakspeare collections. In some respects the loss was irreparable; and yet no one would now dream that it had ever occurred. The Central Reference and Lending Libraries are bigger and more valuable than ever; and the Shakspeare Memorial Library is again without equal in the world. There are a number of branch lending libraries. The Art Gallery and Museum really owe their present status to the liberality of Messrs. Tangye, who in 1880 gave £12,000 to the fund for their improvement, to be spent in works of art. The present Gallery and Museum were then erected in connection with offices for municipal purposes.

The Messrs. Tangye presented the collection of *Wedgwood* ware, which is one of the principal treasures of the Museum; Mr. Nettlefold gave the gallery his fine collection of works by *David Cox*, and Mr. Chamberlain two pictures by *Müller*. 'And from the opening to the present day the record has been one of continual growth and progress. The Museum now contains fine collections of ancient and modern statuary, of metal work, armour, glass ware, lacquer work, enamels, ivories, jewellery, porcelain, Wedgwood ware, medals, coins, gems, and the unique collection of arms in use from the earliest to the present date, made for the Birmingham Proof House' (*Harper*). Both the Museum and Gallery are open free, and on Sundays as well as week days.

Another highly important educational institution is the *School of Art*. Here again the Messrs. Tangye were to the front, with a gift of £12,000. This was capped by Miss Ryland with an equal amount. Mr. Colmore gave a central site; and as the money promised was inadequate for the building in its final form, the Messrs. Tangye found the rest of the funds, and in 1884 Mr. Richard Tangye laid the foundation stone.

*St. Martins*, the mother ch. of Birmingham, is by far the finest and most interesting of the Birmingham chs. which, as a rule, have not much to boast of. A chantry is mentioned as existing in St. Martins (Edward III.) and there was also the Guild of the Holy Cross, the endowments of which were given by Edward VI. to found the Grammar School. 'The character of this Gild was peculiar to Birmingham. . . . It was not a Craft Gild, nor a Gild Merchant, for it neither engaged in trade, nor did it concern itself with the customs or laws of labour. It was not a Town Gild in the strict sense of that name, for, while it undertook specified public duties for the benefit of the community, it did not exercise any general authority in local government. It was to some extent a religious association, since it maintained a chantry in the parish of St. Martin, not specially for the purpose of having mass said for the souls of deceased members, but for the ministration of the sacraments and services to them while living.'—(*Bunce*). Hutton, the old historian of the town, speaks of a restoration in 1786, and this was partially repeated in 1849 by *Hardwick*, who directed his attention principally to the tower and spire. In 1872-5, the ch. was completely rebuilt from designs by *Chatwin*, at a cost of £32,000. It is Dec. in style, and consists of chancel with aisles, nave with aisles and clerestory, transepts, S. porch, tower and spire at the N.W. angle, the arches of the tower communicating with the body of the ch., whereas previously it was quite shut off. The open timber roof with carved hammer beams is by *Brindley* and *Farmer*. There is a stained glass E. window by *Hardman*, with subjects from the Parables, etc.; in the N. transept memorial windows to Mrs. Ryland, designed by *Morris*, and also to Mr. Gough: the subject of the W. window being the Resurrection. In the chancel are four ancient tombstones, believed to be those of lords of Birmingham.

The next most prominent ch. is that of St. Philip, occupying a fine elevated position between Colmore Row and Temple Row (N. of New Street). It is of Italian (Doric) architecture, built early in the last century by *Archer*, a pupil of Sir C. Wren, and underwent a partial restoration in 1864. A good theological library is attached, founded by the first rector in 1815. St. Georges (Gt. Hampton Row, N. of Snow Hill Stat.) was built in 1820 from designs by *Rickman*, Dec., with a good tower. St. Peters, Dale End, is also by *Rickman*, the portico a copy of the choragic monument of Lysicrates. In the same style, and by the same architect, is St. Thomas, Bath Row, a kind of landmark from its elevated situation. It has an Ionic tower 130 ft. in height, and a window—St. Thomas's Unbelief. Very near this last is the *Queen's Hospital*, founded 1841, but almost rebuilt and enlarged 1871. Bishop Ryder's ch. in Gem Street, is *in memoriam* to the prelate of that name, d. 1836. St. Marys in St. Marys Square, the quarter of the gun and pistol makers, has an E. window of the Transfiguration, and St. Pauls, round which the jewellers dwell, one of the Conversion of St. Paul, by *Egginton*. This ch. was erected by *Goodwin*, in imitation of St. Martins-in-the Fields, London. St. Nicholas (Lower Tower Street) is principally due to the Elkingtons, and has a good reredos and a window of the Twelve Apostles. Holy Trinity, Bordesley, is Perp. with an altar-piece after *Murillo*—Christ at the Pool of Bethesda, together with a good stained rose window. St. Augustines, Hagley Road, is good modern Gothic, and has a spire 178 ft. in height. St. Marks, King Edward's Road, is by the late *Sir G. G. Scott*. St. Johns, Deritend, is interesting, as occupying the site of Leland's 'proper chappell at the end of Distey,' the first in the kingdom in which Wycliffe's doctrines were preached.

Of Nonconformist edifices, the most striking are, that of the Independents in Francis Road, Edgbaston, from designs by *Thomason*, the Unitarian ch. of the Messiah, and the Wycliffe Baptist Chapel in the Bristol Road, by *Cranston*, conspicuous for its lofty spire. In Bath St. is the fine R.C. Cathedral of St. Chad, by *Pugin*, the entrance of which is beautifully and lavishly decorated. As there is no clerestory, the arches between nave and aisles rise the whole height, giving an effect of great loftiness. There is a profusion of stained glass, repre-



senting the life of St. Thomas of Canterbury, the Immaculate Conception, the histories of St. James, St. Thomas, and St. Patrick : while at the high altar is a shrine, said to contain the bones of St. Chad, the patron saint of the Diocese of Lichfield. The visitor will also notice the elaborate choir screen, the pulpit brought from Louvain, with carving representing St. Jerome, St. Gregory, St. Augustine, and St. Ambrose ; also the Stations of Our Lord upon the wall, by an Antwerp artist. Underneath the ch. is a series of crypts, and adjoining it is the bishop's residence, considered one of Pugin's best works. The Oratory will ever be associated with the name of the late Cardinal Newman, who died there and whose remains there lay in state.

Birmingham is big and active in everything : and its provisions for recreation are on accordant scale—theatres, concert halls, lectures, art exhibitions (chiefly that of the Royal Society of Artists in New Street). The Small Arms Museum in Paradise Street contains a most interesting collection of fire-arms from the earliest date.

The *public parks* are numerous and attractive. Adderley Park, Saltley, was the gift of Lord Norton, and consists of 10 acres : there are a free library and museum in connection. Cannon Hill Park, 57 acres, lies 2m. S. of New Street, on the Pershore Road, the gift, amongst many others, of Miss Ryland, of Barford Hill, Warwick ; the grounds are very prettily laid out by *Gibson*, of Battersea Park. Calthorpe Park, Pershore Road, the gift of Lord Calthorpe, is 31 acres. Small Heath Park, Coventry Road, 42 acres, was also the gift of Miss Ryland, 1879. Highgate Park, Moseley Road (S.), is near the line of the Midland to Gloucester, 8 acres. Summerfield Park, Dudley Road (N.W.), is 12 acres ; and the Burbury Street Recreation Ground (N.) 4 acres. Park St. Gardens, 4 acres, and St. Marys Gardens, 2 acres, are two disused burial grounds.

The most beautiful is *Aston Park*, 31 acres, 2m. N.E. of New Street, which combines historical associations with modern life in no common degree. Aston Hall was the seat, in the 16th cent., of the Holte family, the house having been built by Sir Thomas Holte, of Duddeston, in 1618, and here he lived in peace until the commencement of the Civil War, when being a strong Royalist, he entertained the King on his march from Shrewsbury to

Banbury. For this he incurred great odium, having to defend his house from the Birmingham people, who were Parliamentarians. After a gallant defence of nearly three days the fortress was surrendered to the enemy, himself imprisoned, and his estate confiscated. He died in 1654, and the Holte family gradually declined in importance until 1782, when the estates passed from their hands altogether; and, if we are to believe Hutton, the representative of the Holtes became a working blacksmith. Then the Legge family had possession for some years, during which time the remainder of the estates went, only the Hall and Park being left. To these succeeded Mr. Watt, son of the great Watt, during whose time the Queen, when a child, visited the Hall. In 1856 an effort was made by the Town Council to secure Aston as a public recreation ground, and, this being unsuccessful, a limited company was formed to carry out the same idea. In 1858 the Queen and Prince Albert opened the Park; but the company not proving a success, fresh overtures were made to the Council, and it was finally taken possession of in 1864. The chief attraction is the Hall, a noble mansion of Jacobæan style, with a gallery, 136 ft. in length, oak panelled, with richly decorated ceiling and chimneypiece. The grounds are well timbered and very charming: separated by a road are the Lower Grounds, which have a skating-rink; an aquarium, with 19 tanks, the arches decorated with stained glass, having aquatic subjects; an exceedingly pretty theatre, roomy and well ventilated, and all the usual *agrémens* of public pleasure grounds. Near the entrance of the Park is a hotel (*Holte Arms*) and the fine old parish ch., the spire of which, *temp.* Henry VI., is conspicuous for a long distance. It was partially restored by *Pugin*, but has been almost rebuilt (except the tower) and enlarged by *Chatwin*. The west entrance is Perp., but has an E. Eng. arcade. In the N. aisle is the altar tomb of the Holtes (William H. and his wife Joanna, 1514); in the S. aisle the mon. of the Bagot family; in the choir and the E. chapel mons. of Arden (15th cent.), Erdington, and Devereux. At the E. end of the chancel aisle is a stained glass window to Letitia Dearden, by *Egginton*. In the chancel are some stalls, said to have been brought from St. Margarets, Leicester, and a portion of the old cross in the ch.-yd., with a sculpture of the Crucifixion. There are some old

almshouses in the village, founded by Sir Thomas Holte, but Birmingham is fast monopolising and altering the old pretty country character. A handsome block of Public Buildings was erected 1880, at a cost of £8,000.

*Saltley*, which lies E. of Birmingham, near the L.N.W., contains Adderley Park and the Training College for Schoolmasters for the Dioceses of Worcester, Lichfield, and Hereford, which has accommodation for 100 students, and practising schools for 400 boys. The buildings are from designs by *Ferrey*. At *Moseley*, about 3m. S. of the town, on M.R., is the Spring Hill College for training Congregational ministers, removed from Spring Hill in 1856, a very handsome (Dec.) building, by *James*. The library is a noble room, and should be seen for the sake of the carving of the chimneypieces. At *Erdington*, 4m. N.E., on the Sutton Coldfield road, are the Almshouses and Orphanage founded by Sir Josiah Mason.

The most important of the other suburbs, all of which may be reached by train or tram are :

*Edgbaston*, 2m. S.W., passing through Broad Street and the Five Ways, where is the statue of Sturge, by *Thomas*. Edgbaston ch. contains no architectural details of interest, but is exceedingly picturesque, the greater portion, and particularly the tower, being covered with ivy. The Park is of considerable extent, and has a pool of 27 acres, still a resort of wild fowl.

*Handsworth* and *Soho*, lying 2 and 3m. N.W., have a special interest. Soho is intimately associated with the names of Boulton, Watt, and Murdoch. In 1774, James Watt, who had made his improvements on Newcomin's engine, removed from Glasgow to Birmingham and joined his fortunes with Matthew Boulton, previously a manufacturer of gilt toys at Snow Hill, celebrated for the excellence of his wares, in the shape of buckles, clasps, and chains. Nothing could have been more felicitous than the union of two such men—Watt, the inventor and the mechanic, shy, nervous, and patient, while Boulton had commercial knowledge united to unlimited energy and boldness. 'Not only steam engines and pumps, plated wares, buckles, ormolu wares, candelabra, vases, and every variety of ornamental goods were produced, but the genius of James Watt, assisted by some remarks of Priestley, had perfected the copying machine. Under Boulton's management, Soho absorbed all the best talent

of the land, and even Flaxman, Chantrey, and Wyon were engaged to provide designs for the multifarious manufactures of the works. The genius of Boulton foresaw the mechanical triumphs of modern days.'—(*Timmings*.) Soho was also celebrated for its coinage. In 1848, on the death of James Watt, son of the great engineer, the original works at Soho were abandoned, and the machinery removed to the foundry, which had been started in 1797. In the same year Matthew Boulton's name was withdrawn, and the firm of the Soho Foundry has been ever since James Watt and Co. Murdoch was superintendent for the firm in Cornwall, and was one of the first to demonstrate the feasibility of employing gas, having lighted his house at Redruth, and in 1802, on the occasion of the Peace of Amiens, illuminated Soho House, with the manufactory. Another name associated with Soho is that of Francis Egginton, painter of stained glass, a discoverer of something very like the daguerreotype process.

*Handsworth* parish ch. has in the chapel, S. of the chancel, a statue to Watt, by *Chantrey*, and in the chancel a fine bust of Boulton, by *Flaxman*, and a medallion portrait of Murdoch, also by *Chantrey*. The ch. itself is Dec. and has a good pinnacled tower in a rather singular position at the E. end of the S. aisle. *Handsworth* contains a very pretty chapel in the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy, and a Theological College for Wesleyans, founded 1880. Like *Aston*, the Public Offices, in which is the Free Library, form a handsome modern block of buildings.

A little to the N.W. of *Handsworth* is *Smethwick*, a large and populous manufacturing town. Here are situated the Soho Foundry and a number of the most important factories in the Midlands.

The Birmingham *industries* are after all the most important and interesting matters in connection with the town; but the visitor must remember that, as a rule, industrial establishments are not thrown open, nor is it to be expected that they should be; though, on the other hand, a proper introduction usually ensures a ready welcome. The trades which may be considered as specialties are as follows, in alphabetical order:—Bedsteads of iron and brass. Bolts and nuts are turned out in prodigious quantities, as well as screws and nails. Brass-working is very important, not only for the actual

smelting and founding, but on account of the many subsidiary trades—brass-drawing, tube-making, brass-turning, spinning, chasing, burnishing, polishing, while locks and bells, gas-fitting and wire-drawing, employ, with the main brass trade, at least 10,000 hands. Bits, bridles, and saddlery work, for which the 'lorimers who make bits' were celebrated in Henry VIII.'s time, has partially migrated to Walsall and Bloxwich. Buttons are a very characteristic out-put, not only in metal, but in pearl, vegetable ivory, glass, bone, wood, and other materials. Very few trades have played such an important part in Birmingham history, or have undergone such mutations. Die-sinking is a specialty, requiring highly skilled labour—this was first introduced by Boulton, at Soho. Electro-plating holds an intermediate position between chemical and mechanical appliances: in such a house as Elkington's every detail is carried on, from the most minute examples up to reproductions of the most elaborate art specimens, familiar to everybody at South Kensington. A great deal of work, such as chasing, grooving, burnishing and gilding, is carried on by small masters. The same may be said of the gilt toy and jewellery trades, which produce a vast number of small articles, the object being to turn out at a cheap rate imitations of more costly ornaments, by means of a very slight film of gold applied by electro-gilding. By 'toys,' however, is not meant so much actual playthings, as trinkets, such as polished steel and gilt knicknacks, chains, rings, chatelaines, etc.; the vast number of which produced even in his day caused Birmingham to be called by Edmund Burke, 'the toyshop of Europe.' Glass is largely made in the suburbs, particularly flint-glass, and lighthouse glass made by Messrs. Chance. For stained glass for church windows Birmingham has long been celebrated. The gun trade, having had its headquarters here since the 17th cent., has a good deal altered in character: formerly each portion of a gun had its separate artizan, who made nothing else, and the weapon passed through forty-eight different divisions of labour. The introduction of machinery and the interchangeable system has done away with many of the specialists, and a huge small-arms factory has been established at Small Heath, Bordesley. Every barrel made in Birmingham is tested at the Proof House, in Banbury Street, so that Birmingham guns, cheaply as they are

produced, are very different now to what they were in 1802, when they cost 7s. 6d., and when, if the barrels were capable of holding water without its oozing out at the pores, they were considered sufficiently serviceable.

Hollow ware comprises the multifarious articles in cast-iron, tinned, and enamelled goods; and it is worth note that the artizans employed on these are of a particularly well-to-do and provident character. Japanning is associated with this manufacture, although Bilston and Wolverhampton may perhaps be considered greater centres than Birmingham. The same may be said of lock and key making, which is curiously localized in the adjoining Staffordshire towns, each being noted for a particular kind. Papier-mâché manufacture and, in connection with it, pearl cutting, was for many years almost peculiar to Birmingham. Steel pens have made more fortunes, and contributed more to the prosperity of the town than almost any other article, though a comparatively modern trade. The names of Gillott, Perry, Mason, and others are household words all over the world, and the steel pens annually turned out from the Birmingham shops may be reckoned by thousands of millions. Pins form another branch of 'unconsidered trifles' in which Birmingham has a great reputation, although pin-making is carried on in other large towns. The introduction of machinery has very much minimised the amount of labour. The screw trade essentially belongs to Birmingham, and may claim the honour of producing a Cabinet Minister (Mr. Chamberlain). Tool making, and that of engines and machinery in general, are carried on to an enormous extent, and Birmingham tools and machines and implements are favourably known throughout the globe, although of late years they have had to meet severe competition at the hands of American rivals. To all which is to be added that the population has increased fivefold since 1811; that the city did not return representatives until 1832, and was not incorporated until 1838; while its civic status is yet but of yesterday.

So far as Warwickshire is concerned, the railway relations of Birmingham with its more immediate surroundings are set forth in Sects. II., III., IV.

The West Suburban Railway gives convenient access by Edgbaston to King's Norton ( $5\frac{1}{4}$ m.) where there is a junction with the main Midland line. At  $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. Somerset

Road Station serves *Harborne*, a little town which stands high—its healthiness popularly expressed by the local name of 'Hungry Harborne,' 'Hungry Harbury' we have had before [Sect. IV.]. The ch. is cruciform, and has a stained glass memorial window to David Cox, the artist, who resided here. Another notable resident was Elihu Burritt, American consul. The Harborne and Edgbaston Institute was opened in 1878 by Mr. Irving. The return from Harborne to Birmingham may be made by a direct (L.N.W.) line, passing the stations of Hagley Road, Rotton Park (close to the canal reservoir), and Icknield Port Road, near which it joins the Stour Valley Railway.

Near Harborne are the *Botanic Gardens*.

A branch runs from New Street to Sutton Coldfield, and affords access to Aston, where is a junction with the Wolverhampton line. 5m. is *Erdington*. The family of that name, whose tombs are to be seen in Aston ch., and who added to the S. aisle, were the owners of this manor, *temp.* Edward II., the first Sir Thomas having obtained it in marriage from its Nor. lord, in consideration of a pair of spurs. Notwithstanding its antiquity, it is but a suburban place, and the parish ch. modern. E., near the old Chester road, are the fine group of Almshouses and Orphanage built 1860 by Sir Josiah Mason at a cost of £60,000, besides endowment to the amount of £200,000. The two buildings are distinct, the Almshouses, which accommodate 30 women, being at the corner of Sheep Street, and the Orphanage, which holds 150 boys, 300 girls and 50 infants, being a little off the Chester road. Erdington R. C. ch. has a spire 164 ft. in height and much stained glass: and in the parish, although some distance W., is *Oscott*, a celebrated R. C. college, finely placed on a hillside. The then Earl of Shrewsbury was a great benefactor to Oscott, and presented several valuable paintings. Near the Mason Orphanage is the old house of Pipe Hayes. Sir Rowland Hill, author of the Penny Postage system, in his early days was a master in his father's school at Erdington.

*Sutton Coldfield* is 8m. from Birmingham (also a Midland station. Pop. 8,086; hotels, *Royal*, *Swan*) and really dates from the time (Henry VIII.) that Vesey, Bp. of Exeter, showed many marks of favour to his old birthplace, adding to the ch. and founding a Grammar

School, the scholars of which were obliged, until the Reformation, to sing the *De Profundis* each morning. The worthy ecclesiastic was probably the longest-lived prelate England ever possessed, his death occurring at the age of 103. The ch., which is partly E.Eng. and partly Late Perp., contains Vesey's altar-tomb and effigy in his robes (the only bishop buried in Warwickshire); also a fine old oak screen and font of Nor. date. A new aisle was added in 1880, at the cost of the rector. The constitution of the corporation, created under Henry VIII., was peculiar, with a warden and twenty-four burgesses; and, as the manor was entirely transferred to the corporation, Sutton Coldfield enjoyed a unique and very remarkable freedom from rates—which in itself made it a favourite place of residence. The estate, as left by Vesey, brings in about £3,000 a year, which is partly used for educational purposes. The chief attraction of the neighbourhood is *Sutton Park*, an extensive enclosure of 3,500 acres, lying W. and S. of the town and about 8m. in circumference. Although the portion close to Sutton is slightly cockneyfied, the park generally is wild and unspoilt, and contains such diversity of scenery, that the visitor can scarcely imagine Birmingham and the Black Country in such near proximity. There is a great deal of woodland, principally oak and holly, and several picturesque sheets of water, Blackroot, Powell's, Windley and Bracebridge Pools, the latter, of 35 acres, lying N. of the Midland Railway, which runs through the park and could well be spared. Parallel with the western border is the Icknield Street, upon which, though outside and to the S.W. of the park, is a tump called the King's Standing, whence Charles I. is said to have reviewed the troops when he visited Aston.

The Midland route to Sutton leaves the Midland line to Derby l., beyond Castle Bromwich at Water Orton. There are four stations hence to the confines of the shire: 8½m. *Penns*, 1½m. r. of which is *Peddymore Hall*, seat of the Ardens, defended by a double moat; 11m. *Sutton Coldfield*; 11½m. *Sutton Park*; and 13½m. *Streetly*. For 2m. before reaching Streetly the line runs through the Park, giving a rapid view of the very charming scenery. On r. is Four Oaks Park, now a racing ground; and further on is Bracebridge Pool, and on l. Blackroot Pool. Immediately outside it crosses the Icknield Street



and enters Stafford. Streetly lies just outside the Park boundary, and hence the ground rises rapidly, the highest point being the fir-crowned knoll of Barr Beacon, 750 ft., which commands wide and beautiful views.

### RAILWAY EXCURSION.

#### VI.—TAMWORTH TO HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN (M.R.).

Distance from Tamworth.	Station.	Distance from Hampton.
2	Wilnecote and Fazeley.	12½
5½	Kingsbury.	9
8½	Whitacre Junction.	6
10½	Coleshill.	4
14½	Hampton-in-Arden.	

*Fares : 2/-, 1/2½ ; ret. 4/-.*

From Tamworth to Whitacre junction this line is the main Midland route from Derby to the West, and gives the readiest access from the N. to Coventry, Leamington, and Warwick, without the need of passing through Birmingham. The route mainly follows the valleys of the Tame and its feeder the Blythe. [For Tamworth see Sect. I.]

2m. WILNECOTE and FAZELEY. The station is placed just where the line crosses Watling Street, which also traverses both the villages served—Wilnecote l. and Fazeley (which is in Stafford) r. This is the nearest station to Drayton Manor, seat of the Peels. A colliery district succeeds.

5½m. KINGSBURY. Near here is a fortified manor-house of the Bracebridge family, on the site where Bertalphus the Saxon is said to have held his court. *Middleton*, 2m. l., is the ancient seat of the Willoughbys, most famous of whom is Sir Hugh, the first explorer of note lost in the Arctic Seas. Another is celebrated for his deeds in Flanders :

‘ But the bravest man among them  
Was the brave Lord Willoughby.’

8½m. WHITACRE JUNCTION [Sect. III.].

10½m. COLESHILL (Inn : *Station*) stands well on rising ground ½m. to r., near the junction of Cole with Blythe. In the centre is the ch., conspicuous for its lofty tower and octagonal spire. It is Dec., with a very noteworthy

Perp. chancel, and formerly belonged to the nunnery of Merkyate, in Bedfordshire. In the interior are recumbent figures of two knights in armour (Clintons), who held the property Henry VII.; also altar tombs to the Digbys of Coleshill Park, and 16th-cent. brasses to Alice Digby and two vicars, William Abell and 'Syr' John Fenton, with other memorials. The mons. generally have great interest and are exceptionally numerous. The armour of the Clinton effigies deserves careful study. There is some good glass. When all is said and done, however, it is the font, which Mr. Parker termed a very valuable example of Nor. carving, that is the chief glory of Coleshill. It is arcaded, with a bold group of Christ on the cross, the Virgin and St. John, and figures of the Evangelists, relieved by trefoiled panelling. The Digbys succeeded the Montforts in the manor *temp.* Henry VII. Coleshill market-place contains a notable antiquity in the shape of 'combination' pillory, stocks, and whipping-post.

Near the station on the l., but to be reached by a somewhat roundabout road, passing Blythe Hall, where Dugdale wrote his *Antiquities* and died, is *Maxstoke Castle*, a very interesting 14th-cent. fortified mansion, built by the Clintons, whose effigies are in Coleshill ch. It afterwards came to the Duke of Buckingham, and in Elizabeth's time to the Dilkes. A moat surrounds the building, which is quadrangular (a tower at each corner), and entered by a gateway, flanked on either side by tall hexagonal towers, with the arms of the Duke of Buckingham on the scrollwork of the ancient doors, the hinges of which bear Clinton arms. Among the contents of the castle is an old oaken chair, originally in a house at Bosworth Field, which claims to have been the chair in which Henry was crowned after the victory. William Clinton, Earl of Huntingdon, founded a priory at Maxstoke for Augustine Canons Regular. A gatehouse and tower are the principal portions that remain, and in the adjoining farmhouse, once the prior's lodgings, but long an ordinary residence, is some panelled ceiling with arms of the abbots. The priory ruins and Maxstoke ch. are about 1½ m. S. of the castle.

Hence the line runs due S., passing l. *Packington*, the beautiful park of the Earl of Aylesford. The mansion, Italian in character, was built in the 17th cent. by Sir

Chas. Fisher. In the park is the ch. of Great Packington, while that of Little Packington is close to the rl. on r.

14½m. HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN [Sect. II.].

### RAILWAY EXCURSION.

#### VII.—RUGBY TO LEAMINGTON (L.N.W.R.).

Distance from Rugby.	Station.	Distance from Leamington.
3	Dunchurch.	12
7	Birdingbury.	8
8½	Marton, for Southam.	6½
15	Leamington.	

*Fares* : 2/6, 1/9, 1/3 ; *ret.* 4/3, 3/-.

From Rugby the line to Leamington turns to the S.W., having on l. Bilton.

3m. DUNCHURCH (Hotel : *Dun Cow*). The village lies on high ground 1½m. E. The ch. is Dec. and has some good features. Facing the hotel is a statue of Lord John Scott, lord of the manor, who died in 1860 ; and hard by is the gabled house, of old the 'Lion Inn,' and dated 1563, in which Sir Everard Digby and his fellow Gunpowder Plot conspirators were assembled when they received the tidings of their ill success, and whence they scattered to meet their fate. By Dunchurch is *Dunsmore Heath*, which is crossed by the line in cutting ; and not far distant the legendary lair of the 'dun cow' killed by Guy, twelve feet high and eighteen long. It is not the most unreasonable suggestion that this story may have originated in a battle with a Danish tribe called the Daengow. Rugby was certainly a Danish settlement, but the *dun* is quite too common a place-name particle to be pressed into special service. From Dunchurch to Coventry for 4m. the road is a noble avenue, planted about the middle of the last century by the Duke of Montagu—'John the Planter.'

7m. BIRDINGBURY. The village lies to the l. on the Leam. The ch. (like that of *Frankton*, 1m. N.) has been practically rebuilt. It contains a good oak screen, presented by Lady Biddulph. The Homers, a well-known Warwickshire name in times gone by, belonged to this parish. Several were at different periods masters at Rugby, and one an intimate friend of Burke and Fox. 1m. S.E. is

the village of *Leamington Hastings*, the fine ch. of which formerly belonged to the Priory of Nostell in Yorkshire. There are several noble trees in the ch.-yard. *Bourton* ch., 1m. N., is charmingly situated. It has a spire, a 13th-cent. font, a 17th-cent. pulpit, and many memorials of the Shuckburghs.

8½m. MARTON. (*Omnibus to Southam.*) The village, ½m. r., is prettily situated at the junction of the Itchen and Leam, the latter being crossed by a bridge built in Henry V.'s reign by John Middleton, a London merchant. One which preceded was erected *temp.* Henry III., and the lessees of the tolls were successively the abbots of Sulby, near Naseby, and the prioress of Catesby; but when the new bridge was built the tolls were remitted. There is nothing of interest in the ch., mainly rebuilt. 2m. S. of the station is *Long Itchington*, where Elizabeth dined when on her progress to Kenilworth, in a house still standing. The village was the birthplace of Bp. Wulstan, the devoted servant of Edward the Confessor. The ch. ranges from Nor. to Perp., has a good 14th-cent. screen, and contains an interesting example of pattern glazing and figured panes of white glass, with coloured borders, of Dec. date. 1m. N. of Marton is Princethorpe, with a large R. C. school and Benedictine nunnery; and further N. still is the stately ch. of *Stretton-on-Dunsmore*, by *Rickman*, attached to which was a chantry, founded by Thomas de Wolvardynton. 3m. W. of Marton are the chs. of *Wapenbury* and *Honingham*, the former E.Eng., the latter with a wooden tower.

12¼m. r. of the line is *Offchurch Bury*, remarkable for the beauty of the timber in the park; and a little further l. is *Radford Semele* ch., given by Henry I. to the monks of Kenilworth. At Offchurch Bury a number of Roman and Saxon remains have been found; and some relics of a building of the 11th cent., Byzantine in character. A line is being made from Daventry to near this point.

15m. LEAMINGTON.

## RAILWAY EXCURSION.

## VIII.—LEAMINGTON TO KENILWORTH, COVENTRY AND NUNEATON (L.N.W.R.).

Distance from Leamington.	Station.	Distance from Nuneaton.	Distance from Leamington.	Station.	Distance from Nuneaton.
1	Milverton.	18½	14	Exhall.	5½
4½	Kenilworth.	15	16	Bedworth.	3½
9½	Coventry.	10	18½	Chilvers Coton.	1
12½	Foleshill.	7	19½	Nuneaton.	

*Fares: Kenilworth—10d., 7d., 4d.; ret. 1s. 5d., 1s.: Coventry—1s. 6d., 1s., 8½d.; ret. 2s. 6d., 1s. 9d.: Nuneaton—3s. 2d., 2s., 1s. 7d.; ret. 5s. 6d., 3s. 10d.*

The roads from Leamington to Coventry are full of beauty, and teem with historic associations; whichever route the visitor chooses will amply repay. Quitting the Avenue Station at Leamington, the first stoppage is

1m. MILVERTON, handy for Emscote and Warwick. The village is 1m. further, beautifully placed, overlooking a bend of the Avon, nearly opposite Guy's Cliff. The river is crossed here. On l. *Leek Wootton* and Woodcote, seat of the Wise family. On r. is Chesford Bridge, and higher up *Ashow*. The ch. has a service of communion plate given by Alicia, Lady Dudley, 1638.

4½m. KENILWORTH. The little town of Kenilworth (Hotels: *King's Arms, Castle, Bowling Green, Temperance, various refreshment houses. There is a short road from the station to the Castle in about 1m.*) has of late become a favourite place of residence, and has much increased in size. It is long and straggling, occupying two sides of a valley, through which a small stream flows to join the Sowe. The ruins of the Castle are in a commanding position, at the head of the valley, to the W. On the northern side is the ch., close to which are fragments (consisting of a gateway and some walls) of the Priory of Kenilworth, founded for Augustine canons by Geoffrey de Clinton, chamberlain and treasurer to Henry I. The ch. itself has interesting details, Nor., E. Eng., and Dec. It consists of chancel, nave and aisles, transepts, and a W. octagonal tower with low spire. The Nor. doorway is singular 'from the square bordure or ornamental fascia, which extends horizontally above the semi-circular head of the doorway and returns at right angles

down to the ground. This bordure is covered with a star-like ornament, and in each spandril is a patera—a curious relic of a more ancient edifice than the church itself, which is of the 14th cent.'—(*Bloxam*.) Undoubtedly this was removed from the *Priory*, considerable remains of the foundations of which have been bared, and may be seen next the ch.-yard on the S. They are chiefly those of the *Priory* ch. (evidently an imposing cruciform building, with central tower) and its adjuncts. The only portions of the conventual buildings in anything like preservation are the gatehouse, E. Eng. and Dec., and a structure now used as a barn—but quite enough is traceable to show that Kenilworth Priory was no unworthy neighbour to Kenilworth Castle.

The lion of Kenilworth is of course the *Castle*, with the grandeurs of which the world has been familiarized most pathetically and most unhistorically by Sir Walter Scott. Most unhistorically because there is no proof that Amy Robsart, upon whose sad fate the story turns, ever saw Kenilworth at all, and she had actually been dead and buried nearly fifteen years before Elizabeth paid her famous visit. So *Kenilworth* must be read for its picturesque fancy, and not for its fact. Probably, as the name suggests, Kenilworth was the defenced 'worth' of some Saxon landowner, and it certainly was a manor at the Conquest. The original builder of the Castle was the same Geoffrey de Clinton who founded the Priory—a man of humble birth, who, by his talents, raised himself to the position of Henry I.'s lord chamberlain, treasurer, and chief justice. In the reign of Henry II. it was taken and garrisoned by the king, whose eldest son had rebelled. Clinton's grandson then lived here for a short time, but John again used it as a royal residence. And both John and Henry III. were largely concerned in building and general edification, unwittingly preparing for the great part the fortalice was to play in the Barons' War. Granted to Simon de Montfort, he placed it under the command of Sir John Giffard, who surprised and slighted Warwick Castle, which was held for the king, and brought the Earl and Countess back as prisoners. The castle became the refuge of the younger Simon when attacked and defeated by Prince Edward immediately before the battle of Evesham; and after that battle gave shelter to the remnants of the vanquished party. It took

the king a six months' siege in the following year (1266)—so stoutly was the castle defended by Henry de Hastings—to compel submission, and then only on good terms. Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, who succeeded the Montforts, held a famous tournament in 1279. His son Thomas was dispossessed and beheaded for his share in the execution of Gaveston: and once more Kenilworth figured as a royal appanage. In 1326, indeed, it became a royal gaol, for here the unfortunate Edward was formally deposed, and hence was he removed to Berkeley. So Kenilworth returned to the house of Lancaster, and John of Gaunt added the building which still bears his name and made it 'exceeding magnificent'! Thenceforward until Elizabeth granted the castle to her favourite Dudley, it was a frequent royal residence, visited in turn by all the succeeding monarchs down to Henry VIII., some of them on several occasions and keeping Christmas and Whitsuntide; while Henry VIII. also built. The grant to Dudley was made in 1563, and he, not satisfied with what had sufficed for monarchs, immediately set about a series of reconstructions and additions most extensive and costly. Elizabeth visited him here on four occasions, the last and most memorable—that set forth by Scott—in 1575. From the Dudleys the castle eventually passed to Charles I. while Prince of Wales, and he came hither in 1643 and 1644. It did not figure during the Civil War, but was dismantled during the Commonwealth, and has been a ruin ever since. At the Restoration the manor was granted to Lord Hyde, and it remains the property of the Earl of Clarendon, by whom every care is taken of the magnificent ruin, and every facility given to visitors, on payment of a nominal fee, each day save Sunday.

No mediæval castle in England has such an aspect of massive grandeur and stately dignity as Kenilworth. The main buildings are singularly complete, even in ruin, and as the shades of evening close, in the near distance it seems not difficult to imagine them yet in their prime; while in the full glare of day the dark ruddy hue of the sandstone walls half relieves the fabric of its wide air of desolation, and marvellously heightens the general effect. The enclosure was of great extent, in shape a very irregular parallelogram, nearly 300 yards in extreme length; and over 200 in extreme breadth. A lake  $\frac{1}{2}$ m. in length and in parts  $\frac{1}{4}$ m. in breadth defended

it E., S. and W. ; and the rest of the circumvallation was guarded by a formidable moat. The lake, however, was drained many a long year ago, though its site is still clearly traceable, and portions of the dam and other works connected therewith remain. It was along this dam, to the extreme E. of the lake, that the main approach anciently ran, and this was traversed by Elizabeth in her famous 'progress.' The entrance is now from Clinton Green, on the opposite side of the cincture, which admits into the base court by the side of Leicester's great gate-tower or barbican, 'equal in extent, and superior in architecture, to the baronial castle of many a northern chief,' and now used as a modern residence. The salient point of the buildings within the inner court is *Cæsar's Tower*, a donjon with enormously thick walls (16 feet) on the extreme r. flank of the inner ward. Though it is not clear who erected this keep, it is certainly the oldest portion of the castle, and perhaps obtained its name from its resemblance to that portion of the Tower of London. However there is Cæsar's Tower also at Warwick, which gives us pause. It is Late Nor., dating between 1170 and 1180, rectangular in plan, and 80 ft. high. It had but two floors ; and with a small access tower attached appears to have been completely metamorphosed within by Dudley. Under the Commonwealth the N. wall was pulled down, destroying the castle as a fortress. In the keep is the castle well, 70 feet deep. Beyond a court to the W. of the keep were the kitchens and buttery ; and beyond these again the remains of the tower to which Scott gave the name of *Mervyn's Bower*, and in which he placed the chamber of the long dead and buried Amy. These buildings practically complete the N. side of the quadrangle of the Inner Ward ; and form the older portions of the main edifice. The W. side contains the grand suite of chambers built by John of Gaunt, hence called *Lancaster Buildings*. The leading feature here is the *Great Hall*, a splendid apartment, 90 ft. by 45 ft., with lofty pointed two-light windows, which in their time must have had very good tracery. That of the E. window is particularly beautiful. The panel-work on the sides of the windows, and also of the fireplaces, should be noticed. An oriel overlooks the inner court. The cellar on the ground floor beneath was vaulted throughout, and contains the shafts and columns



of the arches springing from the walls. It is lighted on the E. side by very narrow windows in the thickness of the wall, with a singular flight of steps up to each. Running E. from the hall, and looking S., were successively the buildings known as the *White Hall* (demolished), the *Presence Chamber*, and the *Privy Chamber*, continued by *Leicester Buildings*, which form the eastern end of the S. side of the ward. Though nearly 100 ft. in height, and so far worthily matching the keep, they are the least interesting portions of the structure, and contrast ineffectively with the grandeur of the Nor. wing of the fabric, and the choice Perp. work of the Great Hall and its accessories. The chief interest lies in the fact that they were occupied by Elizabeth. The buildings which completed the enclosure of the inner ward on the E.—including those erected by Henry VIII. and the fortified gateway, have long since disappeared, and there is nothing to mark the division between the inner and outer courts, except a difference in the ground level.

The following was the course of the *outer walls* and defences. From the great gateway—the present entrance—ran the N. wall westward, at the end being the Swan Tower, overlooking the lake, forming a bastion at the N.W. angle. On the E. side of the gateway ran a shorter wall to the N.E. angle, which was defended by Lunn's Tower, built by King John. It then turned S. to the Water Tower, which may be seen amongst the offices and stables belonging to the Gate Tower. These two last guarded the castle from any approach on the E. The Water Tower was supplied from the head of the lake by sluices and an underground vaulted passage. Hence ran a wall across a strip of land to the S.E. corner, defended by Mortimer's Tower (*temp.* Henry III.), from which was a raised terrace to the southern entrance, at the Gallery Tower. This was called the *Tilt-Yard*. The ancient stables are near the Water Tower, and date from Henry V., but were modified by Dudley.

For students of castrametation a visit to Kenilworth is of abounding interest; and the details of the various domestic and sanitary arrangements are very distinct and traceable. The first impression of the visitor on reaching the ruins of the inner court may be a feeling of surprise at the small space they appear to cover, compared with the enormous area indicated by the various descriptions

of Kenilworth in the olden time. But this disappears when more minute examination is made ; and the view from the top of Mervyn's Bower gives the best idea of the extent of the walls, and the situation of the lake which defended them on the E. and S.

#### EXCURSION FROM KENILWORTH.

*Stoneleigh Abbey*, 3m. E., the magnificent seat of Lord Leigh. (*The house is shown in the absence of the family ; and visitors are allowed to walk or drive through the parks on week days, along the carriage roads, but not in the grounds immediately about the abbey.*) The parks are well wooded and very beautiful. The abbey was a Cistercian house founded in 1154, and on the Dissolution was granted to the Duke of Suffolk, passing from his representatives to its present possessors. The main portion of the present house was built in 1720, when much of the abbey was destroyed. Several parts still remain—the chapter house and abbot's lodging as domestic offices ; the S. aisle of the ch. as the entrance corridor. Most complete, however, is the abbey gatehouse, built by Robert de Hockele in the 14th cent. ; and this, though it was altered in the 17th cent., is well worth notice. Among the pictures in the house are several examples of *Vandyke*, *Holbein*, *Lely*, *Kneller*, and others by *Guido* (*Herodias'* daughter), *Wynants*, *Teniers*, *Cuyyp*, *Wouvermans*, *Gainsborough*, *Snyders*, *Honthorst*, *A. Durer*, *Canaletto*, *Paul Potter*, *Vandevelde*, *Salvator Rosa*, etc. A very beautiful drive runs from the abbey through the park, crossing the Avon at Stare Bridge (built by *Rennie*), and then over a ridge of high ground known as Motstow Hill, on which the manor motes were formerly held. On the N. bank of the Sowe is the village of Stoneleigh, with a remarkably interesting Nor. church, and a group of almshouses erected by Alicia, wife of Sir Thomas Leigh. The N. door of the ch. has its tympanum carved with quaint fancies in the shape of serpents and fishes, and so far has been undisturbed, though the Nor. wall on each side has been altered by the insertion in the 14th cent. of Dec. windows instead of Nor. lights. The chancel arch is an exquisite example, characterised by round, zigzag, double cone and billet moulding, while the jambs are

very richly covered with ornaments. In the chancel too is some very rich Trans. Nor. arcading ; and the illustrations of Nor. moulding generally deserve the most patient and careful study. The font is E. Nor., and unusually good. One of the finest works of Nicholas Stone, master mason to Charles I., will be found in the chancel, the mon. of Alice, Duchess of Dudley, born a Leigh, and her daughter. From Stoneleigh the l. bank of the Sowe may be followed to *Baginton*, where is an E.Eng. ch. with mons. to the Bagots, 1400. The Sowe should now be crossed to (2m.) Stivichall, and in 2m. further Coventry is reached. The traveller by rail from Kenilworth loses the best scenery in the neighbourhood.

9½m. COVENTRY. (*Junction with main line from London to Birmingham.*) [Sect. II.] The line to Nuneaton winds round the W. of the town, affording good views of the triple spires. The district between Coventry and Nuneaton is more or less industrial, coal-mining and brick-making competing in practical interest with woollen weaving and elastic web making.

12½m. FOLESHILL. The village, r., formed part of the lands owned by Lady Godiva.

14m. EXHALL, in the middle of a colliery district. The ch. (l.) has an embattled tower.

16m. BEDWORTH. The most active part of the Warwickshire coalfield. Ribbon-weaving is carried on here, as also at

18½m. CHILVERS COTON. Between this and Bedworth is *Griff*, birthplace, 1743, of Beighton, antiquary, and illustrator of Dugdale's *Warwickshire*.

19½m. NUNEATON. (*Junction with Trent Valley line ; also with M.R. to Birmingham and Leicester and Ashby-de-la-Zouch.*) [Sect. III.]

## RAILWAY EXCURSION.

IX.—LEAMINGTON TO STRATFORD AND HONEYBOURNE  
(G.W.R.).

Distance from Leamington.	Station.	Distance from Honey- bourne.	Distance from Leamington.	Station.	Distance from Honey- bourne.
2	Warwick.	22½	16½	Stratford-on- Avon.	8
7	Hatton.	17½	18	Milcote.	6½
8	Claverdon.	16½	21	Long Marston.	3½
11	Bearley.	13½	24½	Honeybourne.	
12½	Wilcote.	12			

*Fares : To Stratford-on-Avon—2/10, 2/-, 1/3 ; ret. 4/3, 3/-.*  
*To Honeybourne—4/10, 3/6, 2/0½ ; ret. 8/3, 6/-.*

From Leamington to Hatton this is the main northern line of the G.W.R. set forth in Sect. IV. From Hatton Junction the Stratford branch turns off sharply to the S.W. The first station beyond the junction is

8m. CLAVERTON. Of the old ch. the Perp. tower alone remains, the rest of the fabric having been rebuilt. There is a good mon. (1586) of Thomas Spencer, son of Sir John Spencer of Althorpe, whose ancient residence, in part, still stands not far distant under the name of the *Stone Building*. It was evidently in his day a noble mansion. The remains of *Pinley Priory* lie some 2m. N., in a moated enclosure 4 acres in extent. A farmhouse now occupies the more immediate site, but there are remains of the ch. About the same distance E. of the station is the interesting little E.Eng. ch. of *Norton Lindsey*.

11m. BEARLEY. (*Junction of branch to Alcester on the M.R., between Evesham and Birmingham.*) The undulating country, here relieved by gentle wooded hills, is very pretty. Hard by is *Edstone*, birthplace and seat of Somerville, author of the *Chase*. *Wolverton* ch. N.W. is chiefly E.Eng., with traces of an Easter Sepulchre and some old glass.

[The line from Bearley to Alcester is but 6½m. in length, with one station en route at *Great Alne*. Nearly midway between Bearley and Great Alne is *Aston Cantlow*, immediately l. of line, which has a somewhat noteworthy 13th cent. ch. containing quaint carving (the Virgin with the infant Jesus in bed—St. Joseph standing at the foot). The

piscina, credence, sedilia, and font are all good, and there is some curious woodwork. This was the parish of the Ardens, whence John Shakspeare took his wife. Great Alne does not call for notice and *Alcester* will be found described in Sect. XI.]

12½m. WILMCOTE. Though the Ardens were so long connected with Aston Cantlow, Mary Arden was resident in this parish when she married.

16½m. STRATFORD-ON-AVON. (Pop. 8,313; hotels, *Golden Lion, Falcon, Shakspeare, Old Red Lion, Fountain Temperance, Swan's Nest, Unicorn Temperance*; various refreshment rooms, coffee palace, etc.) The most unobservant person cannot be in Stratford-on-Avon for ten minutes without perceiving that he is on classic ground, and that the name and genius of William Shakspeare are the pivots on which the life of the town hinges. Shakspeare is everywhere; in the ch., in the fields, in the streets, in the houses. The very rooms of the hotels are Shakspearean in name, and visitors must be unimaginative if they too do not become thoroughly invested with the Shakspearean atmosphere. To some it may be difficult to understand the devotion which throughout the year brings such a constant stream of English, American, and foreign worshippers to the shrine. Indeed, in this respect, the Americans far outstrip the English; for, as soon as landed at Liverpool, in hundreds of cases in a year, a start is made for Stratford-on-Avon, before any other plan is arranged or any other place visited, and this is most easily done viâ Birmingham. Apart from this sentiment Stratford is well worth seeing, for it lies in a charming country, and is itself an unusually pleasant, well-built town, with a remarkable air of prosperity. It is easy to perceive that Shakspeare has been making the fortune of Stratford and the neighbourhood for nigh three centuries, but many centuries before his day the ancient town founded so long ago at the 'street ford' on the Avon, had an active and prosperous if uneventful career as a Midland centre. Indeed it must have been of importance even before the Conquest, seeing that it was the seat of a Saxon monastery. Its guild life in the Middle Ages was noteworthy.

Nowadays however Stratford is Shakspeare and Shakspeare Stratford; and for most people the early history of the community merges in that of the family. Shakspeare

was by no means an uncommon name in Warwickshire long before the 16th cent. It occurs in various localities, spelt in many ways; and the spelling adopted here is that most frequently used by the poet—so far as his extant signatures attest. John Shakspeare the father, is believed to have been born at Snittafield, a village between 3 and 4m. from Stratford, where his father, Richard Shakspeare, had a small farm. John settled in Stratford about 1551, and engaged in business—some say as a glover, some as a butcher, but eventually as a woolstapler and general trader. In this way he made money, and in 1557 further established his position as a man of standing by marrying Mary Arden, one of the Warwickshire Ardens of the Wilmcote branch, with whom he had the estate of Ashbies. In the same year he entered upon municipal life, and was made burgess and ale-taster, gradually rising to alderman, and finally to high bailiff or mayor. When he had been married about twenty years he seems to have gone back in the world, having to mortgage and sell his property, and at length being struck off the aldermanic roll in consequence of poverty, and neglect of duties. Some of this misfortune at any rate may have been due to his adherence to the old faith, since his name appears in lists of local recusants; and before he died he had recovered his status, receiving a grant of arms (through his son's action) in 1596. He died in 1601.

William Shakspeare was born in the famous house in Henley Street—the third of his parents' eight children—in 1564, and baptized April 26 in that year. His father had certainly lived in Henley Street so far back as 1552, and probably in the same house, but there is no certain connection with the premises until 1556, when he bought a woolshop which adjoined the actual birthplace, and forms a part of the present block. There is no room to doubt that Shakspeare (he is best distinguished by being undistinguished) was a scholar at the Grammar School between 1572-8, where he acquired the rudiments at least of his education, including doubtless the 'small Latin and less Greek,' to which Ben Jonson and Aubrey bear testimony. It is doubtful what his earliest employment was. 'Gossip' Aubrey records the tradition that he was a butcher. No doubt he assisted his father at various times, and his father undoubtedly dealt in cattle

and sheep as well as in wool and other farm produce. But there is hardly a calling for which he has not been claimed, on the score of various passages in his writings—the favourites being law and physic ;—and it seems just as reasonable to suppose that he had no special occupation, but turned his hand to whatever came handiest, after the decline in the family circumstances made work necessary. At any rate from the time of his baptism there is no certain and well-defined event in his life until his marriage with Ann Hathaway. The marriage bond was entered into in November, 1582, when he was 19 and she several years older. In the bond she is simply described as of 'Stratford, maiden.' When and where the marriage was solemnized is not absolutely known, but it was no doubt somewhere in the vicinity of Stratford, and most certainly at Temple Grafton, seeing that there still exists in the episcopal registers at Worcester a marriage license, Nov. 27, 1582, between 'Willillum Shaxpere et Annan Whateley de Temple Grafton. As the marriage bond is dated the next day, and as the substitution of Whateley for Hathaway is an easily accountable blunder, the point really seems clear. The next certain events are the birth of Shakspeare's children—Susanna baptized May 26, 1583, and Hamnet and Judith, Feb. 2, 1585. Then comes a blank. Tradition avers that he had to leave Stratford in consequence of being concerned in some detected deer-stealing at Charlecote (*post*) ; and that he occasionally went poaching in the exuberance of his youth may very well have been ; but such a cause seems inadequate to the result. At any rate Shakspeare is lost sight of until he is found connected with the stage in London ; and there are many good reasons for thinking that instead of going direct from Stratford to London, he went abroad, and acquired at first hand that knowledge of Continental men and things that after stood him in such stead. The probability therefore is, that he was really driven from Stratford by the need of providing for his wife and family ; and that the deer-stealing story has no more truth in it than the utterly baseless assertion that he made an unhappy marriage. At any rate within four or five years at most he had made his way in the world. His reputation as an actor, and as a dramatist, had rapidly grown, and he became prosperous, returning every now and then to Stratford to visit his family. In

1597 he bought the house known as New Place, and finally gave up his interest in theatrical concerns, and returned to his native town to reside altogether. He died in 1616 aged 53. His widow survived him seven years.

The first object of attraction to the visitor is the *house* in Henley Street, where the poet was born. The house and grounds, together with the museum, are jealously cared for, and are under the guardianship of trustees and a curator, the premises being public property. The chief rooms on the ground floor are the living room (next the street), kitchen, with cellar under, washhouse, and pantry. Above the living room (approached by an oak staircase of ten steps) is the *birth-room*, with a room behind. The adjoining premises, once John Shakspeare's wool store, are the *museum*. (*A fee of sixpence to view the house, and another sixpence to see the museum.*) The walls and ceilings of the house, particularly of the birth-room, are a mass of hieroglyphics, and it is quite a work of supererogation for fresh visitors to write their names, and moreover an undertaking of some little difficulty—seeing that there is scarcely a particle of room left for those who might be anxious to contribute. There certainly cannot be a space of ten square feet in this world, containing more evidence of intense human interest than does this small chamber. The museum, originally formed by the late Mr. Wheler, and generously given to the town by Miss Wheler, is full of mementoes of Shakspeare's life—the most interesting items are the desk which he is believed to have used at school, and a signet ring with W. S. There is a large collection of books, documents, MSS., paintings and engravings, which refer in every possible way to Shakspeare and his writings. The portrait in oil of Shakspeare, known as the *Stratford portrait*, supposed originally to have belonged to the Clopton family, and afterwards to that of Mr. W. O. Hunt, is the only known painting of old date which represents the poet in the costume in which he appears in the monumental effigy in the ch. The same personal arrangement is visible in the pretty garden at the back, which is planted with many of the trees and flowers mentioned in his works, while the birthplace and adjoining property generally have been carefully restored as far as possible to their Elizabethan state. The premises



had remained in the possession of descendants of the Shakspeare family named Hart until they finally parted with their interest in 1806. The property was purchased by the trustees for the nation in 1847 for £3,000, and the subsequent outlay has been about as much. The Shakspearean Fund was established in Oct., 1861, to accomplish the following objects :—1. The purchase of the gardens of Shakspeare at New Place. 2. The purchase of the remainder of the birth-place estate. 3. The purchase of Ann Hathaway's cottage, with an endowment for a custodian. 4. The purchase of Getley's copyhold, Stratford-on-Avon. 5. The purchase of any other properties, at or near Stratford, which either formerly belonged to Shakspeare, or were intimately connected with his life. 6. The calendering and preservation of records at Stratford which illustrate the poet's life, or the social history and life of Stratford in his time. 7. The erection and endowment of a public library and museum at Stratford-on-Avon. And most of these objects have been carried out.

Chapel and Church Streets contain a notable group of objects of interest. First in antiquity and note are the Guild chapel and Guildhall and Grammar School where undoubtedly Shakspeare had his education. The *Guild chapel* belonged to the Guild of the Holy Cross, the Blessed Virgin, and St. John the Baptist, a brotherhood of great antiquity, dating back at least *temp.* Edw. I. The chancel is 14th cent. ; but the nave is Perp., having been built by Sir Hugh Clopton in the early part of the 16th cent. The *Guildhall* was the meeting place of the Guild, and dates from the close of the 13th cent., when it was erected by Robert of Stratford, some time Lord Chancellor. After the Dissolution the premises were granted to the town, and became the meeting place of the municipality until they built the predecessor of the present tasteless townhall, the best thing about which is that it contains some good pictures, chiefly a full length of Garrick by *Gainsborough*. The *Grammar School* is above the Guildhall, the sole living relic of the once active Guildry, since it was founded by Thomas Joliffe, a priest of Stratford and a member of the Guild in the time of the sixth Henry, and passed to the town under charter of incorporation in the time of the sixth Edward. It is a picturesque and interesting interior. Almshouses, once the property of the Guild, adjoin.

At the corner of Chapel Lane and Chapel Street, immediately opposite the Guildhall, is *New Place*, the house, or rather the site of the house, where Shakspeare resided when he returned to Stratford, having given up his theatrical career. *New Place* is conspicuous (*admission free in summer*) for the reverential care with which the grounds are kept, and the railings with gilt letters that fence it from the street. 'New Place, the abode of the poet's later years, which is said to have been originally built by Sir Hugh Clopton in the reign of Henry VII., and which was then known by the name of the Great House, came, on Shakspeare's death, to Mrs. Hall (his eldest daughter), and on her decease to her only child, Elizabeth Nash, afterwards Lady Bernard. In this mansion, while it belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Nash, Queen Henrietta Maria held court for about three weeks, during the Civil War in 1643. As directed in Lady Bernard's will, *New Place* was sold after the death of herself and her husband. Subsequently we find it again in the possession of the Clopton family, and in 1742, Garrick, Macklin, and Delane (the actors) were entertained by Sir Hugh Clopton in the garden under what was called Shakspeare's mulberry tree. The constant tradition of Stratford declared that this celebrated tree was planted by the poet's hand, probably about 1609, as during that year an immense number of young mulberry trees were imported from France, and sent into different counties of England, by order of King James, with a view to the encouragement of the silk manufacture. Sir Hugh Clopton modernised the house by internal and external alterations. His son-in-law, Henry Talbot, sold *New Place* to the Rev. Francis Gastrell, vicar of Frodsham, Cheshire. This wealthy and unamiable clergyman, conceiving a dislike to the mulberry tree, because it subjected him to the importunities of travellers, whose veneration for Shakspeare led them to visit it, caused it to be cut down and cleft into pieces for firewood in 1756; the greater part, however, was bought by a watchmaker of Stratford, who converted every fragment into small boxes, goblets, tooth-pick cases, and tobacco-stoppers, for which he found eager purchasers. Mr. Gastrell, having quarrelled with the magistrates about parochial assessment, razed the mansion to the ground in 1759, and quitted Stratford amidst the rage and execrations of the inhabitants.'—

(*Dyce.*) The original theatre was located in the garden of New Place.

Nash House, next to New Place, was the residence of Thomas Nash, who married Shakspeare's granddaughter Elizabeth, and bequeathed it to her. It is now a museum, which includes many objects of special interest, and forms part of the New Place trust (*admission sixpence*). In the next house again lived Julius Shaw, one of the witnesses of Shakspeare's will; and two doors further on Thomas Hathaway, one of the family of Shakspeare's wife.

The next point of interest is the noble *ch.* of the Holy Trinity (once collegiate), in which the poet lies buried. Apart from its illustrious memorials it is of singular beauty, both in style and situation. It is approached from the road by an avenue of overarching lime trees, while on the other side the soft-flowing Avon washes the very walls of the *ch.-yard*, and on the opposite bank are green meadows, with wooded hills in the background. (*Admission fee sixpence.*) The *ch.* is cruciform, and of dates varying from E.Eng. to Perp., consisting of nave, with aisles and clerestory, short transepts and chancel, with a tower of three stages, rising from the intersection, surmounted by a beautiful spire. The uppermost stage of the tower is lighted on each side by circular lights, with good tracery, and between them and the parapet a delicate kind of machicolation runs around. The N. porch is the chief entrance. On the W. doorway are three canopied niches (empty); and a very pretty stone panel-work should be noticed, forming a border close to the ground. Internally the nave consists of six bays, separated from the aisles by plain E.Dec. sexangular piers, the vaulting shafts between each aisle capped by figures of angels. In each bay are two clerestory windows, placed so close to each other as to look almost like a continuous line of window—in this respect Stratford clerestory resembles St. Michaels, Coventry. The nave has a good timber roof, and there is panel-work between the clerestory and the nave arches, occupying the triforium space. The nave is 103 ft. long by 50 ft. high. The aisles have several interesting features. The E. end of the N. aisle was occupied by the chapel of the Virgin Mary, now by the mons. of the Clopton family, and has been restored by Sir R. Hodgson, of Clopton House. On

the N. side is the altar tomb of William Clopton and his wife, the sides covered with armorial bearings. Against the E. wall is that of Carew, Earl of Totnes (d. 1629), and Joice, his wife, daughter of the last-named William Clopton. The effigies have much of the original colouring, and the front of the mon. is covered with military emblems. On the S. side was to have lain Sir Hugh Clopton, who pulled down the original Shakspeare house at New Place, and erected another in its stead. The corresponding portion of the S. aisle was dedicated to St. Thomas à Becket, and has some sedilia with canopies. The carving of grotesque animals, etc., is good, but the whole thing is of modern date. The W. window is a remarkably fine one of nine lights.

The organ by *Hill*, of 52 stops, was in the N. transept, but was divided in 1889, one portion being placed over the N. aisle in a richly carved case by *Bodley* and *Garner*, the other behind a screen in the S. aisle.

The S. transept, used as a vestry, contains the (broken) font in which Shakspeare was baptized, and the register in which this and his burial are recorded. There is also an altar tomb to Rich. Hill, with inscriptions in English, Latin, Hebrew, and Greek. One of the most interesting details in the ch. is the old doorway leading to the tower staircase just by the pulpit.

The choir or chancel is separated from the body of the ch. by a good oak screen, late 15th cent., and is a very fine structure, with five noble four-light windows on each side, and an E. window of seven lights. It was built, or rather rebuilt, by Dean Balsall (1465-1491), and contains his high tomb. On either side the E. window are some rich canopied niches. Notice the Perp. doorway on N. side, by the altar railings, with carvings of St. Christopher and the Annunciation; and also the carving of the miserere seats and the sedilia—very good.

The grave and mon. of Shakspeare are on the N. side of the chancel, the flat stone that covers his grave bearing the following inscription :

‘ Good Frend, for Jesvs sake forbear  
To digg the dvst enclosed Heare :  
Blese be ye man y<sup>t</sup> spares thes stones  
And cvrst be he y<sup>t</sup> moves my bones.’

According to Dowdall this epitaph was ‘made by himselfe, a little before his death.’ The mon., on the N.

wall, consists of a bust of the poet in an ornamental arch between two Corinthian columns, surmounted by the armorial bearings. It is said to have been executed by Gerard Johnson soon after death, and may be considered one of the best portraits of the bard extant. 'It is as large as life, and was originally coloured in imitation of nature; the eyes light hazel, the hair and beard auburn, the doublet scarlet, the loose gown without sleeves black, the plain band round the neck and the wristbands white, the upper part of the cushion in front of the bust green, the under half crimson, the cords running along the cushion and the tombs gilt. These colours were renewed in 1749, but Malone caused the whole to be covered over with one or more coats of white paint, in 1793.'—(*Dyce*.) This white paint was removed in 1811, and the original colours restored. The inscriptions beneath the bust are as follows:

'Jvdicio Pylvm, genio Socratem : arte Maronem ;  
Terræ tegit, Popvlvs mæret, Olympvs habet.'

'Stay, passenger ; why goest thou by so fast ?  
Read, if thou canst, whom envious death hath plait  
Within this monument : Shakspeare, with whome  
Qvicke nature dide ; whose name doth deck ys tombe  
Far more then cost : sith all yt he hath writt  
Leaves living art but page to serve his witt.'

'Obiit Ano Doi 1616, Ætatis 53, Die 23 Apr.'

Close by is a stained glass window representing the Seven Ages of Man, given by American admirers of the poet. The chancel windows are indeed full of stained glass, but some of it is very poor. A recent insertion is a memorial to Halliwell-Phillips, the Shaksperian commentator.

In the immediate vicinity of Shakspeare's grave is that of his wife Anne, who died 1623, aged 67; also that of Susannah, his eldest daughter, who married Dr. John Hall, and died 1649, aged 66. Dr. Hall is buried here, as is Thomas Nash, who married his daughter Elizabeth; Nash dying before her, she married Sir John Bernard, and at her death, in 1669, was buried at Abington, Northamptonshire. In the chancel is the very fine altar tomb, with effigy, of John Combe, Shakspeare's money-lending friend, upon whom, when living, the poet is said to have written impromptu a very caustic epitaph. Though done

at Combe's own request, the sharpness of the epigram gave great offence, and Combe never forgave it. So runs the story, but it is of doubtful foundation.

Above the ch., equally close to the river, is the Shakspeare *Memorial Theatre*, a peculiar-looking, though striking building of red brick, erected in 1877 for the purpose of annually celebrating the period of the poet's birth, by a series of Shakspearean representations. The ground was given by Mr. Flower, and the interior contains a very pretty theatre of most perfect construction (which will hold 800 persons), a picture gallery, and a library. Notice the stained glass in the staircase and corridor. The space around the exterior is prettily planted and laid out. The first Shakspearean Jubilee was held in 1769, under the guidance of Garrick, and in 1864 the tercentenary took place. The picture gallery is illustrative of Shakspeare, and Shakspearean topics, including many engravings and paintings, among others by *Millais*, *Stothard*, *Martin*, *Romney*, *Lawrence*, *Fuseli*. The drop-scene of the theatre is by *Beverley*. Adjoining the Memorial is the *Bancroft Garden*, laid out at the cost of the late Mr. C. E. Flower in 1867. In the garden of the Memorial itself is the *Shakspeare Monument*, the gift and work of Lord Ronald Gower. It represents the poet surrounded by four of his chief characters—Hamlet, Falstaff, Henry V., and Lady Macbeth. (*Admission to Memorial, etc., sixpence.*) The most interesting modern feature of the town is, however, the *Memorial fountain* and clock tower in the Rother Market (rother=cattle), given by Mr. Childs of Philadelphia in 1887, and designed by *Cousins* of Birmingham. It is a very handsome and characteristic structure, and was inaugurated in 1887 by Mr. Henry Irving.

There are several old houses in the town—one at the corner of Bridge and High Streets, once the residence of Judith Shakspeare and her vintner husband, Thomas Quiney; another in High Street, once the house of an ancestor of the founder of Harvard College; and a third once belonging to John Hall, who married Shakspeare's eldest daughter. But the most important of the ancient dwellings of Stratford is Clopton House, some little distance to the N.W., part of which at any rate is older than Shakspearean days. Here for many a long year lived the Clopton family, to one of whom, Sir Hugh Clopton, Lord Mayor of London, Stratford is indebted for its fine stone

bridge over the Avon—unfortunately from a picturesque point of view widened early in the century, though yet handsome. The views of the Avon here are delightful.

The chief excursion from Stratford, if a short walk deserves so formidable a name, is that to Shottery, and *Ann Hathaway's cottage*. There is a field path the whole distance, either from Chestnut Walk or from the G.W.R. station. What is shown as Ann Hathaway's cottage (it is now the property of the Shakspeare trustees, having been bought by them in 1892 for £3,000) is undoubtedly a farmhouse, which once belonged to the Hathaway family, and which in later days was divided into cottages. It remained the property of Hathaway descendants until 1838. There is, however, no evidence to show that it was ever the residence of Ann, or of her branch of the family; and indeed the inference is rather that she lived in Stratford and not in Shottery, though her description as of Stratford in her marriage bond is not absolutely decisive on this head. In fact, the identification of the cottage seems to be almost as doubtful as the story of her unhappy married life, as to which not only is there no evidence, but Mr. Halliwell-Phillips was strongly of opinion that the marriage was one of mutual affection, 'and a most fortunate event for Shakspeare.'

Another place of Shakspearean pilgrimage, but more distant, is *Charlecote*. The road crosses the river at Stratford Bridge, giving off roads to Kineton and Shipston-on-Stour, and then passing through Tiddington. 2m., occupying a corner in a curve of the river, is pleasant *Alveston*, containing many good residences. The ch. has transepts and a tower at the W. end. 3½m. l. is the lodge gate of Charlecote Park, though the best view of the house from the road is obtained at 4½m., beyond where the river Dene is crossed. The place is still in the name of Lucy, and whatever truth there may be in the deer-stealing story, it is perfectly clear that Shakspeare must have had some animosity to the man on whose 'luce' bearings he punned, and whom he drew with such unsparing hand as Justice Shallow. There are few more picturesque mansions than Charlecote, which consists of a centre and two wings flanked by octagonal turrets. In front is a gatehouse. The interior (*not open to the public*) is furnished in a manner corresponding to the general date, and contains paintings by *Teniers, Potter, Vandyke,*

*Wouvermans*, and others. The park, through which flows the Dene to join the Avon, is beautifully wooded, and there is an avenue of limes. Notice on the gateway by Dene Bridge the 'lucres,' or pikes, the arms of the family. A little further on is Charlecote ch., a modernised building of Dec. date. The Lucy chapel, separated from the chancel by an oak screen, contains the mons. of three Sir Thomas Lucys, viz., effigies of the Sir Thomas and Lady Lucy who figure in Shakspeare; their son, who reposes in solitary state; and the third Sir Thomas and Lady, a beautiful work by *Bernini*. The epitaph to his wife was written, it is said by Sir Thomas, but on his own mon. there is none. On the northern side of the park is a road l. to Hampton Lucy, or Bishop Hampton, crossing the Avon by a cast-iron bridge, close to the confluence of the Thelesford brook, a spot where once stood Thelesford Priory, founded, in 1204, by Sir Wm. Lucy. The ch. of *Hampton Lucy* is unusually good, partly by *Rickman*, with a recent addition of an apse by *Sir G. G. Scott*.

There is a pleasant walk by Clopton House to *Snitterfield*, where Shakspeare's father was born. The ch. is a fine building, chiefly Dec., with Perp. additions and with some very good woodwork and carving. A former vicar, the Rev. Mr. Jago (18th cent.) was a poet of some reputation. Exceedingly pretty views are had all round Snitterfield, the country between the Warwick road and the rail being broken and wooded. In the parish is the *King's Lane*, down which King Charles II. rode behind Miss Lane, disguised as her groom, after the battle of Worcester. Beyond Snitterfield is Fulbrooke, the reputed locality of Shakspeare's raid upon Sir Thomas Lucy's deer, although now disparked. Castle Hill marks the spot where John Plantagenet, third son of Henry IV., built a castellated house in Fulbrooke Park, eventually pulled down by Sir William Compton, who carried off the materials to build his house at Compton Winyates. Equidistant on l. is Norbrook, where was the old manor-house of John Grant, the rendezvous of the conspirators of the Gunpowder Plot.

18½m. MILCOTE. The house here was burnt by the Parliamentary troops to prevent the Cavaliers using it as a garrison. This is the last station in Warwick, and the remainder of the route is in Gloucester and Worcester.



21m. LONG MARSTON. This is the 'dancing Marston' of the pseudo Shakspearean quatrain, taking that title from its 'school' of Morris dancers. Charles II. sheltered here after the battle of Worcester in a house which still stands.

24½m. HONEYBOURNE (*Junction*).

### RAILWAY EXCURSION.

#### X.—BLISWORTH TO BROOM (E. AND W. J.R.).

Distance from Blisworth.	Station.	Distance from Broom.	Distance from Blisworth.	Station.	Distance from Broom.
4	Towcester.	41½	29	Kineton.	16½
8	Blakesley.	37½	33	Ettington.	12½
11½	Morton Pinkney.	34	38	Stratford.	7½
18½	Byfield.	27	41½	Binton.	4
23	Fenny Compton.	22½	45½	Broom.	

*Fares* : 11/-, 5/9, 3/9½; *ret.* 20/-, 9/7.

This is the E. and W. Junction Railway, which unites the L. and N.W. and M. systems *viâ* Stratford. It gives a route from London to Stratford *viâ* Blisworth, and from the W. and N. *viâ* Broom, by the L.N.W.R. and M.R. respectively. The stations from Towcester are inserted for the sake of completeness, but the first Warwickshire station is Fenny Compton [Sect. IV.].

29m. KINETON. (Pop. 1,021; inns, *Swan*, *Red Lion*.) The proper name of this little town seems somewhat uncertain, some calling it Kington from the former existence of an old castle, called King John's; others considering it Kineton, and that the well close to the castle site is dedicated to St. Keyne. It is a sleepy, decayed place, which the opening of the East and West Junction has not yet galvanised into life. The ch. is cruciform, partly E.Eng. and partly Perp., and contains the sepulchral effigy of a priest. It has, however, been mainly rebuilt. There is a modern Grammar School, founded by Lord Willoughby of Kineton House. 1m. S.W., close to the rl., is *Butler's Marston*, the manor-house of which was the property of the Woodwards, the representative of whom raised a troop for King Charles, but was slain in sight of home at Edgehill fight. The ch. (Nor.) con-

tains brasses to the Woodward family. There are two tumuli in the parish.

Immediately facing Kineton is the long terrace ridge of *Edgehill*, surmounted by a tower (3½ m. from Kineton), erected 1750, to mark the spot where the centre of the Royalist army was posted on the day of the battle, Oct. 23rd, 1642. The Parliamentary army was commanded by Essex, the Royalists by Charles and Rupert. The chief brunt of the contest lay in the plain below, on the lands called Thistle and Battle Farms; and although the result was indecisive, there is no doubt but that the Parliamentary troops had the best of it. The Earl of Lindsay and his son were taken prisoners, the royal standard captured, the King himself in imminent danger of the same fate, being, with less than a hundred horse, within half-musket shot of the enemy. A clump of firs marks the spot where 500 of the slain were interred. The ch. of *Radway*, some way up the slope, has a recumbent effigy of one of the Royalists who fell; and in the ch.-yd. is a monument to Captain Kingsmill, who shared the same fate. Apart from the interest of the field of battle, there is a magnificent view, extending into 14 counties, from the tower, or from any part of this elevated table-land, the northern spur of the Cotswolds.

By going through Little Kineton, and taking a road on the l. called by the curious name of 'King John's or the Welsh Lane,' the centre of the battle-field will be traversed and the tower most easily reached. A couple of m. from Kineton this road passes between Thistle and Battle farmhouses, near the centre of the Roundhead lines. Here was some of the hardest fighting, and hard by the bulk of the dead were buried. Continuing on the lane for nearly another m. the site of the centre of the Cavalier lines is gained, and a little in the rear, the spot where the King watched the conflict near the remains of Radway old ch. Relics of the great struggle are still frequently found; the most interesting collection is at Edgehill House, built not many years before the fight, and in a limited sense the Royalist headquarters.

A capital round may be had over Edgehill by Ratley, Warminster, and Avon Dassett to the rail at Fenny Compton. Continuing on from the tower, in a hollow is *Ratley*, the ch.-yd. of which has an ancient preaching cross. Ch. Dec. and good. At the N. end of the plateau is *Nadbury Camp*,

a good instance of a British defenced village, surrounded by a vallum and fosse. Just before reaching the camp, the main road to Banbury turns to the S. ( $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Kineton), and that to *Warmington* keeps straight along the edge of the hill. Warmington, in former days, possessed a Benedictine Priory, founded by Newburgh, 1st Earl of Warwick, which Henry VI. handed over to the Carthusians. The ch., from whence there is a very wide view, is unusually interesting, principally Trans.-Nor. and Dec. The nave is separated from the aisles by four Nor. and one Dec. arch. Attached to the chancel (which has a piscina and sedilia) on the N. side is a re-vestry, entered by an ogee-headed doorway, and containing a bracketed stone altar-slab (*Shotswell* ch., 2m. S., has another). In the S.W. angle is a flight of steps, leading to a chamber with a fireplace and a retiring closet—an unusual example of the *domus inclusi*. The ch. contains Dec. windows, with exceedingly good tracery. In the yard is the grave of Capt. Alexander Gourden, killed at Edgehill, buried here in company with 20 private soldiers. For *Avon Dassett* (2m. N.) follow the Warwick road 1m. and turn to r.; the ch. contains an almost unique monument of a deacon before he had taken priest's orders. It consists of an effigy upon a slab of dark Forest marble, lying beneath a horizontal canopy, composed of a semicircular arch, above which is an engraving of some buildings. Mr. Bloxam notes that there is only one other such instance of a deacon's effigy in England, at Furness Abbey. Further N. lies *Burton Dassett*, once a flourishing market-town under the name of Chipping Dassett. The ch. has some Nor. details. Hence it is  $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. to Fenny Compton.

But the precincts of Kineton are by no means exhausted yet. 2m. N.W. is *Compton Verney*, the beautiful seat of Lord Willoughby de Broke, with an extensive lake in the grounds. Originally a manor of the 1st Earl of Warwick, it became the property of Sir Richard Verney, or Varney, *temp.* Henry V., who resided here and built a fine house. The present edifice was erected in the last cent. by *Adam*, and contains a room with panel painting by *Zuccherò*, and a number of fine portraits. The chapel is an uninteresting Georgian building, but with several notable Verney memorials removed from the older edifice; and some highly interesting Elizabethan

and Jacobean glass. 3m. further on the same road is *Wellesbourne*—(Inn: *King's Head*)—consisting of the two townships of Wellesbourne Hastings and Wellesbourne Montford, divided by the Dene river. The distinctive names show that the Wellesbournes were under the protection of powerful families, causing them to be prosperous places, and their prosperity was increased by Edward I. granting a weekly market and annual fair. The ch., originally built by the first Earl of Warwick, was renewed in 1847 as a memorial to Sir John Mordaunt; it contains reredos and sedilia by *Wyatt*, and a good deal of stained glass, one of the windows having been shown in the Exhibition of 1851. There is a brass to Sir T. Le Strange, *temp.* Henry VI., and the bells are said to have been brought from Thelesford Priory, near Charlecote. It is a charming walk of about 2m. up the valley of the Dene, to *Walton* and Walton Park (designed by *Sir G. Scott*). This however is easiest reached from

33m. **ETTINGTON.** There are two Ettingtons—Upper 1m. from the station, and Lower 2m. further S. where is Ettington Park, the beautiful seat of the family of Shirley, 'the only one in the county,' according to Dugdale, 'which glories in an uninterrupted succession of owners for so long a term of time.' What Dugdale wrote in the 17th cent. holds good now. The first owner of the manor after the Conquest was Henry de Ferrars, which name was revived in the 17th cent., when Charles II. created the son of Sir Robert Shirley, Baron Ferrars of Chartley. The old ch. has only the tower and S. transept remaining, the latter forming the chapel of the mansion, and the burial-place of the Shirleys. It contains an altar tomb to Sir Ralph Shirley and his wife, (Edward I.), also one to Robert, 1st Earl Ferrars, 1717. The centre figure is that of the Hon. G. Shirley, and on each side of him are Lord and Lady Ferrars in coronation robes. The house has a series of sculptures by *Armstead*, representing incidents in the career of the Shirley family. The park is extensive, and noted for its hawthorns. It is skirted W. by the Stour, which divides Warwick and Worcester.

2½m. S.E. of Upper Ettington is *Pillerton Priors*; the ch. belonged to a priory in Normandy, but was burnt down in 1666. *Pillerton Hercy* ch., 1m. N., has a good carved

roof of 15th cent. Nearly 3m. S. in a very isolated district is *Whatcote*; with an interesting ch.—a Nor. arch on the N. side, nave and chancel Perp., tower E.Eng. There is a mon. with brass to Thomas Nelle, a former rector, and one to another rector, John Davenport, 1597, who held the living for 70 years, and died at the age of 101. In the ch.-yd. is an ancient cross. 1½m. N.E. *Oxhill* ch. (Nor. and E.Eng.) with Perp. tower. It has a good chancel screen, a fine Trans. Nor. font, and an inscribed slab with inscription to one Daniel Blackford, a Royalist.

3m. again S.E. is *Tysoe*, a village well situated on the slopes of Edgehill. The ch. is Nor. and E.Eng., and there was a Saxon fane on the same site. It consists of chancel, nave, with aisles, and clerestory. The Dec. font is very good; so are several mons.; and some of the old pews are worth notice. There is a portion of a cross in the ch.-yd. The chief curiosity of Tysoe, and indeed of this part of the countryside, is the *Red Horse*, a gigantic figure cut from the soil in the hill. Tradition asserts that this was due to Neville, Earl of Warwick (the king-maker) who, at the battle of Towton, killed his steed, so that he should be obliged to share the danger with the meanest of his soldiers, calling out: 'Let him fly that fly will, I will tarry with him that will tarry with me.' An annual 'scouring' of the Red Horse used to take place on Palm Sunday, the anniversary of the battle, and several lands in the parish were held on the tenure of this procedure.

3m. N.W. of Ettington station, but more conveniently approached from Stratford-on-Avon, is *Loxley*, a place of very great antiquity, the ch. having been founded in 774 by Offa, King of Mercia. It has been twice rebuilt, once in the 13th cent., and again in the 17th cent. Of the earliest ch. there is a trace, in the shape of some Anglo-Saxon herring-bone work in the chancel, and of the second, in the piscina. It once belonged to the Priory of Worcester. Mr. Burgess held that this Loxley is the native place of Robin Hood, although there are two others bearing the same name in England.

38m. STRATFORD-ON-AVON. [Sect. IX.]

41½m. BINTON. From Stratford the line follows down the valley of the Avon, and here is on the verge of Gloucester. The chief interest of the district

is geological, fossil insect remains being found in the quarries of the Lower Lias. *Welford*,  $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of station, retains an ancient maypole.

45 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. BROOM. (*Junction for Midland line to Evesham and Redditch*.) 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. before reaching Broom, is *Bidford*, once a place of a little importance, with a ch. of some interest, hard by which is the *Falcon Inn*, where Shakspeare is said to have drunk 'pottle deep,' and certainly might, without being guilty of any anachronism. It is old enough. This is the 'drunken Bidford' of the quatrain heretofore noted, the story told being (and it can neither be proven nor denied) that Shakspeare and his companions had one day come over to a bout of ale-bibbing, having accepted the challenge of a party calling themselves the Bidford Topers and Sippers. But the latter were too strong in the head for the Stratford visitors, who, after a lengthened carouse, gave in, and spent the night slumbering under a crab-tree. In revenge for the defeat and the disgrace, Shakspeare composed these lines in reference to the villages around :

'Piping Pebworth, Dancing Marston  
 Haunted Hillborough, Hungry Grafton,  
 Dodging Exhall, Papist Wixford,  
 Beggary Broom, and Drunken Bidford.'

Nicknames and rhymes of this sort are of course by no means uncommon. Hillborough, Grafton, Exhall, Wixford and Broom are all within easy reach of Bidford ; Marston as we have already seen is in Gloucester, and so is Pebworth. Exhall ch. contains 16th cent. brasses. For Wixford see Sect. XI.

## RAILWAY EXCURSION.

## XI.—EVESHAM TO REDDITCH FOR BIRMINGHAM (M.R.).

Distance from Evesham.	Station.	Distance from B'ham.	Distance from Evesham.	Station.	Distance from B'ham.
3	Harvington.	13½	9½	Alcester.	7
5½	Salford Priors.	11½	11½	Congleton.	5
7	Broom.	9½	13½	Studley.	3
7½	Wixford.	9	16½	Redditch.	

*Fares to Redditch*—2/3, 1/4½; *ret.*, 4/6.

„ *to Birmingham*—4/6, 2/3½; *ret.*, 9/-.

This line leaves Warwickshire shortly before reaching Redditch, and thence traverses and serves Worcestershire. It connects with the main Midland line from the W. for Birmingham at Barnt Green.

3m. HARVINGTON. This village, like Evesham, is in Worcestershire. Ch. partly Nor. 2m. E. is *Cleeve Prior*, high above the valley of the Avon and fruitful in Roman relics. Four 'pots' of Roman coins, gold, silver, and copper counterfeits were found here in 1811. Warwickshire is entered near

5½m. SALFORD PRIORS. The ch., Dec., has a window with flamboyant tracery, and an old carved pew, dated 1616. On r. is the junction of Arrow with Avon, the latter flowing from the E., while the rl. follows up the valley of the Arrow to

7m. BROOM. (*Junction with E. and W. Junction to Stratford-on-Avon.*) The village lies r. A pretty view northwards, looking towards Alcester. *Rouse Lench* 5m. W. has a good Nor. (carvings) and E. Eng. ch.

7½m. WIXFORD (Hotel: *Fish*). A noted angling locality for the Arrow. The ch., dedicated to St. Milburgh, is of different dates, Nor. to Perp. It has a chantry, built by Thos. de Cruwe, 1418, which contains his tomb with brass effigies of himself and wife under canopies. Note the insertion of the family badge, a foot, between each word of the inscription. There is also a brass to a son of Pryse Gryffin of Broom, 1597. An extremely pretty footpath leads from Wixford to Alcester on the l. bank of the river, underneath Oversley Hill, on

which is a Folly tower. It is, in point of fact, the course of the Icknield, and shows traces of a covered way. The best views of Ragley are obtainable from it, the mansion not being visible from the rl. 1m. E. of Wixford is *Exhall* ch., which has an altar tomb with brass effigy of John Walsingham, 1566, and wife, the former in armour. There is an exceedingly pretty view, 1m. from Wixford, of the little ch. of *Arrow* by the riverside.

9½m. ALCESTER (pron. Alster) (Pop. 2,406 ; hotels, *Swan, Globe*) is one of the sweet 'sleepy hollows' which still linger in out-of-the-way corners of England, charmingly seated in the vale of the Arrow at its junction with the Alne, amid softly wooded hills. That it was once in the occupation of the Romans seems certain, from traces of buildings as well as coins which have been found. The ch. belonged to the nunnery of Cokehill in Worcestershire, but at the Dissolution came to the Grevilles, and was eventually bought by the Marquis of Hertford. It is for the most part debased Gothic, though the tower is good Dec., of three stages, with crocketed pinnacles. The aisles are separated from the nave by Doric columns, and the chancel is little more than a recess for the altar, being only 10 feet deep by 16 in width. The two chantries which previously existed, belonging to Our Lady and to the Beauchamps, have disappeared. There is a carved pulpit and singular painted triptych to recall the names of benefactors ; also monuments to the 2nd Marquis of Hertford, with effigies by *Chantrey*, and an altar tomb with effigies to Sir Fulke and Lady Elizabeth Greville, the compartments having figures and heraldic shields. The *Town Hall* is a rather picturesque semi-timbered building. 1m. N. of the town is *Beauchamp's Court*, now a farmhouse, but once the residence of the Beauchamp and Greville families. Traces of the moat are still to be seen. Though Alcester is the heart of a rural district, it has an industry, like Redditch, of needle-making. For a long time the Alcester makers were celebrated for sail and packing needles, but eventually Redditch attracted both capital and machinery, and became the needle metropolis, while Alcester possesses only some two or three factories. There is, however, a good deal of domestic industry in connection with the town, in the shape of needle drilling, stamping, burnishing, and scouring.



## EXCURSIONS FROM ALCESTER.

To *Arrow* 1m. S., a charming little village on the banks of the river. The ch. is of Nor. date, though with subsequent alterations, as, for instance, a striking Dec. door with panel-work tracery within a Nor. doorway. In the chancel is a piscina. There is a marble monument with effigy to Admiral Sir G. Seymour, erected by the 5th Marquis of Hertford, and executed by his son-in-law, Count Gleichen. In the 12th cent. Arrow Park belonged to the Burdetts. In 1477 Edward IV. was hunting in the park, when he by accident killed the owner's favourite white buck, at which the latter was so incensed that he lost his temper, and expressed a wish 'that the buck's head were in the belly of him who moved the king to kill it.' For this he was arrested for high treason and executed, the hasty words being construed into a desire to compass the king's death.

*Ragley Hall*, the noble seat of the Marquis of Hertford, lies S. of Arrow, in a spacious and delightful park, on a commanding site overlooking the valley. Ragley had been held by the Rouses, Bromes, and Conways, and came to the Seymours from the latter. The house, built by Lord Conway in the 18th cent., is Italian, with four fronts, the principal entrance being at the E. side. There is in the interior a fine collection of paintings by *Titian, Rubens, Holbein, Lely, Spagnoletto, Morland, Gainsborough, Lawrence, Cosway, Teniers, Hoppner, Poussin, Tintoretto, Berghem, Vandyke, Reynolds*, and others, together with a library containing 30,000 volumes. The park is charmingly wooded, with a great diversity of hill and dale.

1½m. **COUGHTON**. The village is r. on Icknield, and has an interesting Late Perp. ch., consisting of chancel, nave with aisles and clerestory, chantry chapels and a W. tower. In the interior is some rich old stained glass with various mons. of the Throckmortons—to Sir Robert T., who died in the Holy Land 1520; Sir George T. and wife, with brass effigies and figures of their eight sons and eleven daughters: Sir John T. and wife, her right hand holding that of her husband: and a brass now lost was to Dame Elizabeth T., 1547, the abbess of Denny in Cambridgeshire. *Coughton Court* was the old manor-house of the Throckmortons. It underwent some harsh treatment during the Civil War, when Sir Robert was dispossessed. At the time of the Gunpowder Plot,

it was the abiding place of Sir Everard Digby, and the place to which the news of failure was brought to Garnet and others by Bates. The centre of this modern mansion is the noble gatehouse built by Sir G. T., *temp.* Hen. VIII. ; incorporated as at present 1780. At 13m. l. is the hamlet of *Sambourne*, where the earliest, or one of the earliest, horse mills for making needles was set up. There is a celebrated oak here.

13½m. **STUDLEY.** The village (r.) is engaged in needle making. The ch. is of different styles, having a Nor. doorway in the N. wall, while the windows in the S. aisle are Dec. There are several monuments of the 17th and 18th cent. There is another interesting ch. at *Ipsley*, 2½m. N. of Studley. *Feckenham*, head of the ancient forest of that name, is 4m. S.W. in Worcester.

16½m. **REDDITCH** (*Pop.* 11,295 ; hotels, *Unicorn, Fox and Goose, Temperance*). Few places are more prettily situated than this metropolis of needle-makers, though the red-brick factories go far to neutralise its natural position. Except these factories, there is little to see, and they are only accessible to visitors who bring an introduction. Redditch is the centre of the manufacture, not only of needles, but of fish-hooks and fishing-tackle, with which it supplies the civilised world. The town has few rivals, Studley, Alcester, Ipsley, and Sambourne, acting as feeders rather than as separate districts, while only one other place in the kingdom, Hathersage in Derbyshire, occupies itself with this branch of industry. The needle trade took root in Redditch about the end of the 17th cent., and the only changes since then have been in the elaboration of the machinery, a good deal of which is owing to American ingenuity. A needle, small as it is, had, not very long ago, to pass through seventy different operations before being ready for use ; but machinery now does away with much of this. All the same, there are certain operations, such as tempering, in which no machinery will ever displace the experience of the skilled artizan. From Redditch, the greater portion of which is in Worcestershire, the line runs N. through a gently undulating country, entering a small outlying portion of Warwickshire, and passing the few remains of *Bordesley Abbey*.

19m. **ALVECHURCH**, and soon joins the main Midland line at

22m. **BARNT GREEN.**

## ROAD EXCURSION.

## XII.—STRATFORD-ON-AVON TO HENLEY-IN-ARDEN AND BIRMINGHAM.

As far as Bearley station,  $4\frac{1}{4}$ m., the Birmingham road runs nearly parallel with the rl., and at the foot of a softly wooded group of hills.  $6\frac{1}{2}$ m. is *Wootton Wawen*; the ch., prettily situated on rising ground, is one of the most interesting in the county, containing Anglo-Saxon details. It consists of nave, with S. aisle and clerestory, chancel, and a large chantry chapel S. of the chancel. The tower is placed centrally eastward of the nave, and shows Anglo-Saxon work in the substructure, and in the N. and S. doors, which are circular headed, with square-edged moulding. The upper portion of the tower is 15th cent., and has an embattled parapet, as has also the rich clerestory, which is raised on a wall and pier arches of the 14th cent. The chancel arch is Saxon, and only 4 ft. 8 in. in width, while the arch between tower and nave is 6 ft.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  in. There are some good Dec. windows; and old woodwork including screen and chest. The mons. are very numerous, an altar tomb to John Harewell, 1428, with brass effigies of knight in armour, his wife and children; another, with effigies, dated 1505; to Francis Smith, 1626, with coloured effigy in armour, the face having a beard, and the neck surrounded by a ruffe; to Hon. Frances Covington, 1698; to Henrietta, Lady Luxborough, and to Somerville, the poet, etc. The communion table has retained the Puritan style and place.

8m. *Henley-in-Arden* (Pop. 1,043; inns, *White Swan*, *Bear*. Omnibus to and from Bearley station). A quiet clean little one-street country town, the principal objects of interest being the ch. and the market cross, the latter formed of a base and a shaft, surmounted by four enriched niches, containing the Holy Trinity, the Crucifixion, and St. Peter, the fourth being mutilated. It is a good 15th cent. work. The ch. (Late Perp.) has nave with N. aisle, chancel, pinnaced tower at the west end, and a beautiful porch with an embattled parapet and trefoil headed panels. The roof of nave and choir has sculptures of angels holding shields, and there is some fragmentary stained glass. Adjoining the ch. on N. was

a guild founded by Lord Sudeley, 15th cent. The history of Henley is slight, though it was of more importance in old times than now, having been a borough *temp.* Edward I., and the property of the Montforts, for which it suffered after the battle of Evesham. Close to the town on E. is *Beaudesert*, where, on a mound above the ch., stood a castle built by Thurston de Montfort, which has long disappeared. The ch. is principally Nor., with insertions of later date. On S. side are a Nor. doorway and windows, and there is a Nor. E. window with zigzag mouldings. The Nor. chancel is a parallelogram with rectangular termination, and there is an exquisite chancel arch with zigzag mouldings and scalloped capitals. The tower, which has Nor. buttresses, is crowned with a pyramidal roof. Beaudesert was the birthplace of Robert Jago, author of *Edgehill*, afterwards vicar of Snitterfield. The hill above the village commands a beautiful view, extending from the Malverns to Edgehill. Some 2m. E. is *Preston Bagot*, the ch. placed on a hill. It is of Nor. date, though much altered. 1m. N. is *Preston Bagot House*, an old timber building of the time of James I. On the other side the canal is *Yarningale Common*, a good hunting-ground for the botanist. There is a tumulus and a camp at *Barmoor*, which lies to the S. Nearly 4m. S.W. of Henley-in-Arden (between it and Studley) is *Moreton Bagot* ch., which has a timber belfry and a singular half-blocked window on the S. There are several moated houses in the neighbourhood.

9½m. A little to r. is *Camp Hill*, where is a tumulus, perhaps an outpost of the camp at *Harborough Banks* by *Kingswood Station*. On l. a road runs to *Tanworth* 3½m., passing the moated house of *Botley Bank*. *Tanworth* is situated on the high ground in which the waters of the *Alne* have their source, the ch. spire being conspicuous from afar.

At 10m. the road ascends *Liversidge Hill*, and there is a perceptible change in the country, which becomes bleaker. 11m., road on r. leads to *Lapworth*: the manor belonged to the Montforts, and afterwards to Sir Wm. Catesby, the friend of Richard III., who was beheaded after *Bosworth*. The Robert Catesby who was engaged in the Gunpowder Plot was born, 1573, at *Bushwood Hall*, nearly 2m. S. near *Copt Heath*, a very characteristic mansion of the 14th cent. The moat is still traceable.

He died 1605 at Holbeach, during the attack made upon the house in which the conspirators had taken refuge. Lapworth ch., which belongs to Merton College, is very interesting, and was nearly rebuilt in the 15th cent. It consists of nave, with aisles and clerestory, chancel with a chapel on N. side, W. porch with chapel above, and a campanile tower with spire, connected with the N. aisle by a vestibule. The chancel is the oldest part of the fabric, if we except the remains of a Nor. window. The clerestory and aisles are embattled. 12m. on l. is the site of an old chapel at *Nuthurst*, and an obelisk in the grounds of Umberslade. The Stratford-on-Avon canal is crossed at Hockley House, a noted 'change' house in coaching times. *Packwood* lies 1m. r. At 14m., Monks-path Bridge, the infant Blythe is crossed, the road for the next 3m. being known as Monks-path Street and Shirley Street. 18½ (r.) Hall Green. On left the river Cole rises at *Sarehole*, near which is the old timber and plaster house of Swanshurst. Westward the Spring Hill College on Billesley Common is a conspicuous object. The road enters Birmingham suburbs at 20½m., Sparkbrook, whence it is rather over 2m. into New Street.

Another road may be taken to Birmingham from Wootton Wawen, turning l. at 7m. from Stratford, and skirting, 9m., the park of Barrels. On l. is the village of Ullenhall. At 10½m. Worcestershire is entered, the scenery at *Oldberrow Hill* and *Gorgot Hill* (11½m.), where the Alcester road falls in, being exceedingly pretty. One of the finest views in the whole county is to be had from *Upper Skilts*, a little S. of Gorgot Hill.

### ROAD EXCURSION.

#### XIII.—STRATFORD-ON-AVON TO SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR AND MORETON-IN-THE-MARSH.

For the first half-dozen miles the road is accompanied by a tramway which connects Stratford with Moreton, and serves a considerable district. Take the road to r. on the other side the bridge, crossing 1m. the East and West Junction Rl. 2m. r. the village of Clifford Chambers in Gloucestershire, and 3m. r. that of Atherstone-on-Stour—the (Dec.) ch. has a monument to Dr. Thomas, 1710,

editor of *Dugdale*.  $4\frac{1}{2}$  r., on the opposite bank of the Stour, is *Whitchurch*—slab in the ch. to the wife of Sir Thomas Overbury, whose uncle was poisoned in the Tower 1613 for endeavouring to dissuade the Earl of Somerset from marrying the divorced Countess of Essex. The Overbury who met this sad fate, was a native of *Ilmington*, 4m. S. of *Whitchurch*. It has a rather fine cruciform ch. of Nor. and E.Eng. dates. Opposite *Whitchurch*, in Worcester, is *Alderminster*. At 6m. the Stour is crossed at *Upthorp*, the road l. skirting *Ettington Park* [Sect. X.], and leading ( $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.) to *Upper Ettington*. On l.,  $8\frac{1}{2}$ m., is *Halford*, a busy place in the old coaching days. *Halford* is noted for its fine bowling green. 10m. l. is *Honington* ch. with a pretty spire.

11m. *Shipston-on-Stour* (Hotel: *George*), a quiet agricultural centre with a good sheep market. 1m. S.E. is *Burcheston*, the ch. of which (E.Eng.) contains an excellent example of a priest's chamber attached to the tower. There is a mon. to the Willington family, and a black-letter copy of Erasmus's *Paraphrase* is chained to the bench. From *Shipston* the road still pursues the valley of the Stour, which it crosses at ( $12\frac{1}{2}$ m.) the little village of *Tidmington*, entering again into Warwickshire. *Barmington* ch., r. bank of the river, is E.Eng., and possesses a stone pulpit.

15m. At *Little Wolford* the road to *Long Compton* and *Chipping Norton* turns off l. *Great Wolford* ch. is Perp., and there are traces of an entrenchment close by. 2m. S. is *Barton-on-the-Heath*, the ch. of which has a good Nor. chancel arch. *Barton House* was built by *Inigo Jones*, and was formerly the residence of the Overbury family. From *Great Wolford* it is nearly 3m. to the boundary of the county, marked by the Four Shire Stone at the point of junction of the counties of Warwick, Worcester, Oxford, and Gloucester, and *Moreton-in-the-Marsh* station G.W.R. is reached in  $19\frac{1}{2}$ m.

## ROAD EXCURSION.

## XIV.—SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR TO LONG COMPTON AND CHIPPING NORTON.

This route traverses the long southern spur which Warwick projects between Worcester and Oxford shires—a very pretty walk, but which takes too much time for the average tourist. Besides, its most notable antiquarian feature—the Rollright Stones—is easy of access from Chipping Norton.

From Shipston the Banbury road must be taken, leaving Barcheston on r. and traversing a very picturesque bit of country. The road ascends a considerable hill at 4m. *Over Brailes*, where on l. are traces of an encampment. One of the head waters of the Stour is crossed at 5m. *Brailes*, where the ch. (of mixed styles) is of remarkable interest, formerly called the 'Cathedral of the Feldon.' It is Perp. and Dec., consisting of nave with aisles and clerestory, chancel, S. porch and W. tower (Perp.) 120 ft. in height, of three stages, with embattled parapet and crocketed finials. The clerestory, with its carved cornice, gurgyle, and the open work of the (Dec.) parapet, is very noteworthy. The ch. is 165 ft. in length, the piers of the nave, which has six bays, resting on Nor. foundations. The clerestory has twelve windows, each of two cinquefoiled lights with square heads. The E. window is of five lights, the Perp. W. window of four, both being of stained glass. The font is octagonal, carved with rich tracery, and there is an altar tomb to R. Davis (17th cent.). In the tower is a room with a fireplace.

1½m. N. is *Winderton*, where a pretty memorial ch. has been built by Canon Thoyts. It is E.Eng. in style, is apsidal, and has a rather elaborate arcaded porch. 1m. further N., in the direction of Edgehill, is the fine old mansion of *Compton Winyates*, a seat of the Marquis of Northampton, snugly situated in one of the little Cotswold valleys—so snugly, indeed, that Camden with very doubtful taste speaks of it as Compton-in-the-Hole. The mansion, an irregular old-fashioned quadrangular building, contains eighty-one rooms, and was erected by Sir Wm. Compton (whose mon. is in the ch.), Master of the

Ordinance, 1545, from the materials of the castle of Fulbrooke. On the r. of the court is the room where Henry VIII. slept when he visited Sir William, and on the l. the room in which Charles I. slept the night before Edgehill. The ceiling of the large hall was painted to represent day and night. In this hall should be noticed the screen and minstrels' gallery, the quaint carvings and tapestry, the whole house being a wilderness of quaint rooms—a gigantic hiding-place, while the chimneys are a marvel. They are of brick, twisted, knotted, turned, fluted, billeted, capped, zigzag, and ornamented in every conceivable form. It is probably the most picturesque example of 'perfect proportion without regularity' in England. In the Civil Wars the house was garrisoned for the King, and taken and held for the Parliament. It was much 'pulled about' subsequently, and owes its present admirable restoration to the third Marquis. (*Visitors are admitted on Wednesdays and Saturdays when the family are not in residence.*) The ch. was built temp. Charles II., its predecessor having been destroyed in the operations against the house. It contains some of the mutilated effigies from the old fabric.

At Compton Winyates was born Compton, Bishop of London, who held the see during the whole time that Sir C. Wren's work was going on at St. Paul's.

From Brailes, the road should be followed to *Sutton*, 2m., the church of which has an early Nor. (some say, Saxon) doorway.

1m. further down the river is *Cherrington* ch., E.Eng. and Perp., which has a rich canopied tomb, with effigy, supposed to be that of a squire or franklin in the costume of the 14th cent., viz., a tunic, super-tunic, and a kind of tippet, or 'cote and hood,' as mentioned in Chaucer. 2m. S.E. of Cherrington is *Whichford* ch., E.Eng. and Perp., which has a S. transept, clerestory, a rather fine tower, and Nor. doorway. 2m. S.W. of the latter village is the straggling village of *Long Compton*, very near the border of the county, which, in the time of Henry III., was of sufficient importance to have a weekly market and annual fair. The ch. has an unusual feature in the vestry being on the S. side of the chancel. It is mainly E. Eng. and Perp. with Nor. vestiges, and a good bell cot. There is a curious lich-gate.

The lower road from Long Compton to Chipping



Norton crosses high ground into Oxfordshire at the second mile, passing the megalithic group called the *Rollright*, *Rollrich*, or *King's Stones*, a circle 105 ft. in diameter, consisting of 58 stones, the centre planted with fir. About 300 ft. to N. is a menhir called the *King's Stone* (in Warwickshire), and 1,000 ft. to the S.E. are three upright and two prostrate stones called the *Whispering Knights*—a dolmen. There is really no doubt that this circle once enclosed a sepulchral barrow, and that the whole series is sepulchral. The legend is that they represent an invading monarch and his followers ; and that to the King it had been prophesied

‘When Long Compton you shall see  
Then King of England you shall be.’

But as he hastened on he was stayed by the incantatory couplet,

‘Rise up hill, stand fast stone,  
King of England thou shalt be none ;’

whereupon he and all his followers were ‘lapidified.’ Another version is that the ‘whispering knights’ were conspirators. And a later marvel is that when some vandal carried away one of the stones to make a bridge over a brook, he was so tormented by spirits that he had to bring it back. No one should visit these stones with any large expectations. As Mr. Fergusson says, the circle ‘is a sort of monument that the boys of any of our larger schools could set up in a week, supposing the stones to be lying at no great distance,’ while the local villagers would complete the whole ‘in a few days if so inclined,’ or a victorious army of 1,000 men ‘between sunrise and sunset on a summer’s day.’ But it is hard to agree, even with Mr. Fergusson’s cautious endorsement of Camden’s suggestion, that the remains have to do with *Rollo*. They differ in no one particular from the general run of those monuments in Devon and Cornwall, which are certainly of far higher antiquity than this hypothesis would admit.

From the stones it is 2½ m. to *Chipping Norton* (station *G.W.R.* Hotel : *White Hart*.)

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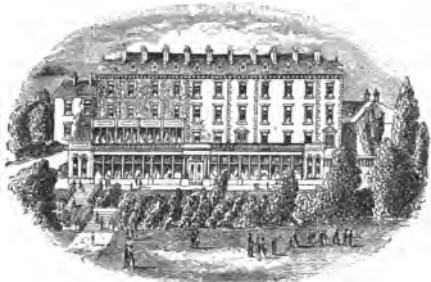
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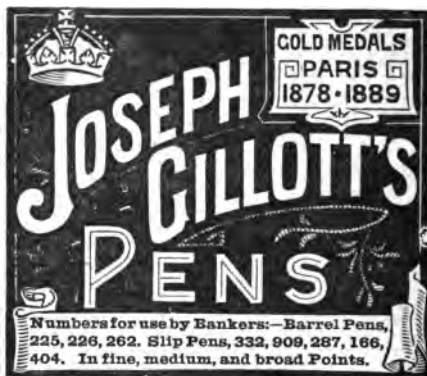
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